

This inspection procedure does not relieve the owner, architect or engineer of responsibility under the applicable codes. Attached you will have the inspection field report and the finished inspection report, along with the original plans review. I also will attach the alarm requirements per NFPA 72, and WV Fire Code.

Due to the circumstances, this office operating as the AHJ for this project is attempting to resolve the Code compliance issue temporarily, by allowing as requested this business to open and maintain life safety compliance for the occupants of this building. In order for this to happen it will be required for this business to designate fire watch personnel until the automatic fire alarm system can be installed. This shall be done in an expedited manner as approved by this office; also the alarm installation shall have plans and be approved prior to installation as noted in the original plans review. A plan of corrective action shall be submitted to this office as to the estimated time the alarm will be installed and the names, phone numbers or other contact means of the qualified persons designated as fire watch. If finding qualified fire watch personnel is difficult please contact this office. Attempts may be made to have off-duty firefighters perform this duty with compensation.

NFPA 1 3.3.114-Fire Watch. The assignment of a person or persons to an area for the express purpose of notifying the fire department, the building occupants, or both of an emergency; preventing a fire from occurring; extinguishing small fires; or protecting the public from fire or life safety dangers.

NFPA 101 LSC 9.6.1.6-Where a required fire alarm system is out of service for more than 4 hours in a 24 hour period, the authority having jurisdiction shall be notified, and the building shall be evacuated, or an approved fire watch shall be provided for all parties left unprotected by the shutdown, until the fire alarm system has been returned to service.

NFPA101 LSC A.9.6.1.6-A fire watch should at least involve some special action beyond normal staffing, such as assigning an additional security guard(s) to walk the areas affected. Such individuals should be specially trained in fire prevention and in occupant and fire department notification techniques, and they should understand the particular fire safety situation for public education purposes. (NFPA 601, Standard for Security Services in Loss Prevention.) The term out of service in 9.6.1.6 is intended to imply that a significant portion of the fire alarm system is not in operation, such as an entire initiating device, signaling line, or notification appliance circuit. It is not the intent of the Code to require notification of the authority having jurisdiction, or evacuation of the portion of the building affected, for a single non-operating device or appliance.

NOTE: A fire alarm system might be shut down for any number of reasons during the life of a building. Some shut-downs are preplanned, controlled, and of short duration such as periodic testing and maintenance. Others might be preplanned and of longer duration, such as times of building or system rehabilitation. Emergency shutdown of the system can be the result of power failure, fire, or other physical damage and might result in a short or lengthy shutdown to repair the system. Advance planning should help ensure that the system, or most of the system, can be restored to service despite the scope of the

renovation or the extent of an unexpected impairment. If the alarm system is required by the Code, or if it was installed to make use of one of the alternatives offered by the Code, it must be in operable condition for the building to be considered Code compliant.

Instead of designating a building with an inoperative alarm system as noncompliant and prohibiting occupancy under all conditions in accordance with the provisions of 4.6.10.1, 9.6.1.6 differentiates between those alarm systems impairments that last less than 4 hours within a 24-hour period and those that last longer. Continued occupancy of a building that has an alarm system impairment of more than 4 hours cumulative within any 24-hour period can be tolerated only if a fire watch acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction is provided. Such lengthy impairments generally indicate a situation that involves a problem more serious in nature than typical system maintenance or testing.

It is the intent of the Code that the fire watch result in heightened awareness of the building's operations and environment. Individuals assigned to the fire watch should be able to recognize fire hazards and understand the procedures for occupant evacuation in an emergency.

When developing a plan to address system shutdown, it is important to consider the nature of the shutdown, the location, the increased hazards that are involved, and the actions necessary to mitigate the hazards. The authority having jurisdiction should be involved in the development of such a plan.

Any questions regarding this, or other projects, should be directed to the Fire Prevention Bureau at 304-424-8522.