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Division of Code Enforcement and Administration
Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code - 2002 Edition

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TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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U P D A T E D

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Topic: Visible alarm notification devices for fire alarm system

This document provides clarification on the requirements for visible alarm notification devices for fire alarm systems. Although most of the requirements for accessibility are found in Chapter 11 of the *Building Code of New York State* (BCNYS) and require compliance with ICC/ANSI A117.1, visible alarm notification devices for fire alarm systems are found in BCNYS section 907.9.1 as follows:

907.9.1 Visible alarms. *Visible alarm notification appliances shall be provided in accordance ...*

907.9.1.1 Public and common areas. *Visible alarm notification appliances shall be provided in public and common areas.*

907.9.1.2 Employee work areas. *Where employee work areas have audible alarm coverage, the wiring system shall be designed so that visible alarm notification appliances can be integrated into the alarm system.*

907.9.1.3 Groups I-1 and R-1. *Groups I-1 and R-1 sleeping units in accordance with Table 907.9.1.3 shall be provided with a visible alarm notification appliance, activated by both the in-room smoke alarm and the building fire alarm system.*

907.9.1.4, Group R-2. *In Group R-2 occupancies required by section 907 to have a fire alarm system, all dwelling units and sleeping units shall be provided with the capability to support visible alarm notification appliances in accordance with ICC/ANSI A117.1.*

The term “**common use**” is defined in BCNYS section 1102.1 as:

Interior or exterior circulation paths, rooms, spaces or elements, that are not for public use and are made available for the shared use of two or more people.

Common use areas include areas that are restricted to employees only or where the public access is limited. Examples are break rooms, copy areas, toilet rooms or circulation paths. The term “shared use” means a space which is used by one person at a time, such as a single use toilet room, so that the occupant can be warned of an emergency. The term “**employee work area**” is defined as:

All or any portion of a space used only by employees and only for work. Corridors, toilet rooms, kitchenettes, and break rooms are not employee work areas.

Employee work areas which are required by section 907.2 to have automatic fire detection systems are required to be designed so that the system includes visible alarms. Furthermore, section 907.9.2, audible alarms, provides the required sound pressure level (dba) above the average ambient sound level for a variety of conditions. As for the features and placement, BCNYS section 1101.2, accessible design, states that buildings and facilities shall be designed and constructed to be accessible in accordance with this code and ICC/ANSI A117.1 (2003). Chapter 7, section 702.1, of ICC/ANSI A117.1, states:

Accessible audible and visual alarms and notification appliances shall be installed in accordance with

NFPA 72 (2002).

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