

Arvada Fire Protection District
Fire Marshal's Office
Administrative Interpretation

Number	2018-01		
Subject	FA notification - upgrade when required		
Code Reference	2018 IFC, Section 907.5.2.3		
Jurisdiction	City of Arvada, City of Wheat Ridge, Jefferson County		
Effective Date	10/29/2018	Issued By	Kevin Kirby
Revision Date	3/15/2021	Revised By	Steven Parker
Approval Date	10/30/2018	Approved By	Steven Parker

Purpose

To provide guidance and code interpretation for when repairs or modification to an existing fire alarm system will require the entire system to be updated to meet current code requirements and when the system can be modified or repaired to maintain compliance with the code of installation.

Scope

This Administrative interpretation applies to existing fire alarms in existing buildings that require modification due to the following but not limited to, tenant finishes, emergency repairs, or upgrades to equipment connected to the fire alarm such as elevators.

Description of Issue

When can an existing fire alarm system be required to be brought up to current code standards?

Section 1103.7 Fire alarm systems. Requires approved fire alarm systems “...provide occupant notification in accordance with Section 907.5 unless other requirements are provided by other sections of this code.

Exception: Occupancies with an existing, previously approved fire alarm system.”

Section 907.5.2.3 Visible alarms. Visible alarm notification appliances shall be provided in accordance with Sections 907.5.2.3.1 through 907.5.2.3.3.

Exception:

1. Visible alarm notification appliances are not required in *alterations*, except where an existing fire alarm system is upgraded or replaced, or a new fire alarm system is installed.

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Decision

A fire alarm system can be required to be upgraded to current code standards if the existing fire alarm system cannot support the alterations necessary for expansion of the system, or if alterations require functionality that the current fire alarm system does not have the capacity to fulfill.

- If existing devices are not compatible with a new FACP.
- If it is only a FACP replacement and nothing else is affected, it is maintenance, and does not require an entire system to be brought to current code.