

Fire Alarm Systems

Through [Public Act 207 of 1941, the Fire Prevention Code](#), the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) has jurisdiction over many different types of state-regulated facilities in Michigan. Installations, renovations, inspections, testing and/or maintenance on every fire alarm system (including hood suppression and clean agent systems) in state-regulated facilities must be performed by a firm that has been certified through BFS. For guidance on state-regulated facilities, please refer to the Act as well as the [Fire Alarm and Fire Suppression Certification Rules](#) for the promulgated rules for certification. Certification forms are also available on the Bureau website (www.michigan.gov/bfs) under the Frequently Used Forms section.

Fire Safety Rules and Code Requirements

The [Fire Safety Rules](#) adopt various National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) documents and therefore, fire alarm plans and specifications for the different facility types may require the use of different NFPA documents. Below is a list of NFPA documents that apply to each facility type:

Adult Foster Care: Reference the Life Safety Code (LSC) 2006 Edition and the 2002 Edition of NFPA 72.

Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Homes for the Aged, Free Standing Outpatient Facility, CMCF and Hospice Residence: Reference the Life Safety Code (LSC) 2012 Edition and the 2010 Edition of NFPA 72.

Penal Institutions: Reference the LSC 1997 Edition and the 1996 Edition of NFPA 72.

Schools, Colleges and Universities: Reference the LSC 2012 Edition and the 2010 Edition of NFPA 72.

School Dormitories and College/University Dormitories: Reference the LSC 1997 Edition and the 1996 Edition of NFPA 72.

Plan Submittals

Fire alarm plans and specifications must be submitted by a BFS certified firm or licensed architects and engineers. Submittals from persons who do not meet these requirements will not be accepted. An [Application for Fire Safety Plan Examination \(BFS-979\)](#) must accompany each plan submittal to BFS.

Properly submitted shop drawings should contain a floor plan of the facility, riser diagram of the alarm devices, equipment cut sheets, and the use/name of each space/room. Our office also requires plans to be drawn to a minimum 1/8"=1'-0 scale.

Stand Alone: A fire alarm project that does not involve other work at the facility which would require a separate submittal. This project would be assigned a new project number.

Project with multiple submittals: A fire alarm project that is submitted as part of other work at a facility. In this instance, a project number would have been assigned to the initial plan submittal (i.e. construction plans and specs). In the space provided on the [Application for Fire Safety Plan Examination \(BFS-979\)](#), please indicate the project number that was created for the initial plan submittal. This will help ensure that the fire

alarm submittal is properly linked to the related plan submittals. You may contact the architect of the project for this number.

Phased Projects: Work that requires a separate submittal for each step or phase of the project. Please coordinate phasing and associated project numbers with the architect. Be sure to include the appropriate project number in the space provided on your [Application for Fire Safety Plan Examination \(BFS-979\)](#) so that the fire alarm submittal is properly linked to the related plan submittals.

Fire Alarm Maintenance

Maintenance of a fire alarm system involves the direct replacement of a defective existing system component with a like component on a one-for-one basis. BFS does not require a plan submittal for fire alarm maintenance.

Note: Replacement of a control panel is NOT considered maintenance and therefore requires a plan submittal.

Additional questions may be directed to the BFS Plan Review Division at 517-241-8847.