Healthcare Interpretations Task Force
AGENDA

Mandalay Bay Convention Center
Meeting Room – Oceanside G
Las Vegas, NV

June 12, 2018
1:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.

- Call to Order 1:00 P.M.
- Introduction of Members and Guests. **Page 02**.
- Review of Questions.
  - Zone Valve Location. **Page 05.**
  - Door Latches and Door Closer Devices. **Page 06.**
  - Separation of Ambulatory Health Care Facilities. **Page 07.**
  - Security Systems in Stairs. **Page 08.**
  - Ability to Silence Supervisory Signals**. Page 11.**
  - Quick Response Sprinklers and Standard Response Sprinklers in the Same Smoke Compartment. **Page 13.**
- Old Business.
  - **Strobe Activation.** CMS update on activation of strobes on alarm notification appliances during a drill.
- New Business.
- Date / Location for Next Meeting.
- Adjournment by 6:00 PM.

Address List No Phone

05/31/2018

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HITF INTERPRETATION REQUEST

JUNE 2018

DOCUMENT TO BE INTERPRETED: 99

EDITION: 2015

SUBJECT: Zone Valve Location in Stretcher Alcove

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (optional):

5.1.4.6.2 A zone valve in each medical gas or vacuum line shall be provided for each Category 1 space and anesthetizing location for moderate sedation, deep sedation, or general anesthesia specific for the occupancy. These zone valves shall be located as follows:

(1) They are installed immediately outside the area controlled.

(2) They are readily accessible in an emergency.

QUESTION:

When the zone valve is located in a stretcher alcove, does the presence of a stretcher in front of the zone valve render the zone valve no longer readily accessible in an emergency?

(Being mindful that the stretcher is on wheels and likely being used in the emergency to remove the patient first)

HITF INTERPRETATION REQUEST

JUNE 2018

DOCUMENT TO BE INTERPRETED: 101

EDITION: 2015

SUBJECT: Door Latches and Door Closer Devices

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (optional):

QUESTION:

Is it necessary to have a latch in addition to a door closer device that provides 5lb closing force?

HITF INTERPRETATION
June, 2018

Document to be interpreted: NFPA 101

Edition: 2012

Subject: Separation of ambulatory health care facilities

Question:

Section 20.1.3.2 permits sections of ambulatory health care facilities to be classified as other occupancies, provided that they are separated from ambulatory health care occupancies by construction having a minimum 1-hour fire resistance rating.

Section 20.3.7.1 requires ambulatory health care facilities to be separated from other occupancies by walls having a minimum 1-hour fire resistance rating. Do either of these sections require ambulatory health care facilities to be separated from other occupancies on other floors by 1-hour fire-resistance-rated floors in buildings of Type II(000) construction?

HITF INTERPRETATION
June, 2018

Document to be interpreted: NFPA 101

Edition: 2012

Subject: Security Systems in Stairs

Question:

Can security systems devices (card sensors, cameras, motion sensors,…) be installed within exit stair enclosures (with penetrations properly fire stopped and wiring in metal conduit) to provide for proper facility protection and monitoring. The 2018 edition has clearly indicated it is allowed. This issue is being enforced in a non-uniform manner throughout the country based upon the opinion of the inspector/surveyor present at a facility. Health care facilities in all settings but in particular in urban settings need to provide for proper site security. This includes monitoring of stairwells. A lack of security presents a higher risk to occupants than the presence of security equipment within a stair.

HITF Question – Security Equipment in Stairs
June 2018

Background: Historically the allowance for security devices and penetrations into a stair have been dependent upon a local jurisdiction, inspector, or accreditation surveyor. The need for security within a healthcare institution has grown more and more prevalent especially for healthcare facilities in urban settings. The LSC has clearly evolved relative to current (2018) edition's decision to recognize this requirement. In order to have consistent application across the industry, a common opinion is necessary so that facilities are not having to continuously address the issue of security needs based upon an individual surveyor/inspector's opinion on section 7.1.3.2.1 (10) b.

Question: Can security systems devices (card sensors, cameras, motion sensors,…) be installed within exit stair enclosures (with penetrations properly firestopped and wiring in metal conduit) to provide for proper facility protection and monitoring.

Supporting documentation:

NFPA 101 2012 currently identifies the allowance of electrical conduit serving the exit enclosure and provides appendix clarification that this is intended to allow for security systems when authorized by the authority having jurisdiction. However, the reference to authority having jurisdiction provides for a means of local interpretation.

7.1.3.2.1 Where this Code requires an exit to be separated from other parts of the building, the separating construction shall meet the requirements of Section 8.2 and the following:

(10) Penetrations into, and openings through, an exit enclosure assembly shall be limited to the following:
(a) Door assemblies permitted by 7.1.3.2.1(9)
(b)*Electrical conduit serving the exit enclosure
(c) Required exit door openings
(d) Ductwork and equipment necessary for independent stair pressurization
(e) Water or steam piping necessary for the heating or cooling of the exit enclosure
(f) Sprinkler piping
(g) Standpipes
(h) Existing penetrations protected in accordance with 8.3.5
(i) Penetrations for fire alarm circuits, where the circuits are installed in metal conduit and the penetrations are protected in accordance with 8.3.5

A.7.1.3.2.1(10) (b) Penetrations for electrical wiring are permitted where the wiring serves equipment permitted by the authority having jurisdiction to be located within the exit enclosure, such as security systems, public address systems, and fire department emergency communications devices.

NFPA 101 2018 has clarified this section and relocated the allowance of security devices from the appendix into the code as a line item. This section has also removed the "when permitted by the authority having jurisdiction" which eliminates the varying degrees of acceptance.

NFPA 101 2018
(10) Penetrations into, and openings through, an exit enclosure assembly shall be limited to the following:
(a) Door assemblies permitted by 7.1.3.2.1(9)
(b)* Electrical conduit serving the exit enclosure
(c) Pathways for devices for security and communication systems serving the exit enclosure, where pathways are installed in metal conduit
(d)* Required exit door openings
(e) Ductwork and equipment necessary for independent stair pressurization
(f) Water or steam piping necessary for the heating or cooling of the exit enclosure

(g) Sprinkler piping
(h) Standpipes
(i) Existing penetrations
(j) Penetrations for fire alarm circuits, where the circuits are installed in metal conduit

When reviewing the 2012 edition, the Appendix of Administrative section 1.4 it states that future editions of the Code are to be considered as a refinement of this edition. The NFPA 101 Handbook continues on this clarification to indicate that the future editions should be considered a clarification of the intent.

> "A.1.4 Before a particular mathematical fire model or evaluation system is used, its purpose and limitations need to be known. The technical documentation should clearly identify any assumptions included in the evaluation. Also, it is the intent of the Committee on Safety to Life to recognize that future editions of this Code are a further refinement of this edition and earlier editions. The changes in future editions will reflect the continuing input of the fire protection/life safety community in its attempt to meet the purpose stated in this Code. "
>
> "Handbook. - More recent edition of the Code. As explained in A.1.4, future editions of the Code are considered refinements of earlier editions because they clarify intent with respect to the revised topics."

Therefore, it should be accepted under the 2012 edition that security devices within the stair are permitted based upon the current edition clarifications of the committee's intent.

HITF INTERPRETATION REQUEST

JUNE 2018

DOCUMENT TO BE INTERPRETED: 101

EDITION: 2012

SUBJECT: Ability to Silence Supervisory Signals §9.7.2.1*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (optional):

The UL listing of many fire alarm panels in health care facilities allows supervisory signals to be silenced. CMS has been citing these panels under the interpretation that supervisory signals are prohibited from being silenced according to NFPA 101. As a result of this interpretation, facilities have been asked to alter the operational factory-set fire alarm panel characteristics to prevent silencing and re-sounding of supervisory signals, thereby altering the UL listing of the panels.

NFPA 101 requires supervisory signals to sound and be displayed within the building at a constantly attended location or remotely at a receiving facility. The code does not specifically state that the alarm cannot be silenced.

> **"9.7.2.1* Supervisory Signals.** Where supervised automatic sprinkler systems are required by another section of this *Code*, supervisory attachments shall be installed and monitored for integrity in accordance with *NFPA 72*, *National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code*, and a distinctive supervisory signal shall be provided to indicate a condition that would impair the satisfactory operation of the sprinkler system. Supervisory signals shall sound and shall be displayed either at a location within the protected building that is constantly attended by qualified personnel or at an approved, remotely located receiving facility."

According to NFPA 72, 2010 Edition supervisory signals are allowed to be silenced given that they comply with 10.11.5.2 through 10.11.5.5.

> **"10.11.5 Supervisory Signal Silencing.**
> **10.11.5.1** A means for silencing a supervisory signal notification appliance(s) shall be permitted only if it complies with 10.11.5.2 through 10.11.5.5.
> **10.11.5.2** The means shall be key-operated or located within a locked cabinet, or arranged to provide equivalent protection against unauthorized use.
> **10.11.5.3** The means shall transfer the supervisory indication to a lamp or other visible indicator, and subsequent supervisory signals in other zones shall cause the supervisory notification appliance(s) to re-sound.

10.11.5.4 A means that is left in the “silence” position where there is no supervisory off-normal signal shall operate a visible signal silence indicator.
10.11.5.5 A means that is left in the “silence” position shall cause the trouble signal to sound until the silencing means is restored to normal position”

QUESTION:

Are supervisory signals allowed to be silenced in accordance with NFPA 72?

HITF INTERPRETATION REQUEST

JUNE 2018

DOCUMENT TO BE INTERPRETED: NFPA 13

EDITION: 2010

SUBJECT: Quick-response Sprinklers and Standard Response Sprinklers in the Same Smoke Compartment. §8.3.3.2

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (optional):

Health care facilities are continually undergoing renovation and construction projects which may require the installation of quick response/residential sprinklers. The mixing of quick-response/residential sprinklers with standard response sprinklers poses the concern that quick sprinklers farther from the fire could operate first cooling the ceiling enough for the standard sprinkler closer to the fire not to operate, allowing the fire to grow larger than if the standard response sprinkler operated first.

To address this concern, NFPA 13 2010 Edition §8.3.3.2 requires that where quick-response sprinklers are installed, all sprinklers within a compartment shall be quick-response.

NFPA 13 2010 Edition §3.3.6 defines a Compartment as:

A space completely enclosed by walls and a ceiling. Each wall in the compartment is permitted to have openings to an adjoining space if the openings have a minimum lintel depth of 8 in. (200 mm) from the ceiling and the total width of the openings in each wall does not exceed 8 ft (2.4 m). A single opening of 36 in. (900 mm) or less in width without a lintel is permitted when there are no other openings to adjoining spaces.

The American Fire Sprinkler Association generated a report "The Impact of 8 in. Lintels on Sprinkler Activation within Small Rooms" which determined there was no detrimental effect on the activation time of sprinklers in the following room configurations:

1. Rooms with a single opening without a lintel with a maximum width of 36 inches
2. Rooms with openings in each wall of the compartment with a minimum lintel depth of 8 in and a maximum width of 8 ft

The 36 in. limitation for openings without a lintel and 8 ft limitation with a minimum lintel depth of 8 in. ensure that heat from a fire collects at the ceiling of the room which results in faster operation of sprinklers nearest to the fire.

NFPA 101 2012 Edition §3.3.48.2 defines a smoke compartment as:

A space within a building enclosed by smoke barriers on all sides, including the top and bottom.

QUESTION:

Where quick response/residential sprinklers are installed in areas of a smoke compartment as defined by NFPA 101, is it the intent of NFPA 13 2010 Edition §8.3.3.2 to require the installation of quick response or residential sprinklers throughout the smoke compartment?