

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION I-18-07

August 9, 2007

The following is offered in response to your July 31, 2007 letter to me in which you seek a formal interpretation of the provisions of Section 907.9.3 of the 2003 International Building Code portion of the 2005 State Building Code.

Question 1: Does the code permit the operator of a proprietary system within a complex to manually dial a telephone to notify the municipal fire department as opposed to automatically re-transmitting the signal when it is received?

Answer 1: No. The code, at Section 907.9.3.1, requires the alarm to be automatically transmitted. The alarm cannot be transmitted by an individual initiating a dialed telephone call.

Question 2: If the answer to Question 1 is no, must an existing complex that constructs a new R-2 occupancy update the existing alarm system to automatically re-transmit the alarm signal to the fire department?

Answer 2: The alarm system for the new building must meet the requirements of the code in effect at the time of application for building permit. The existing alarm system must meet the requirements in effect at the time of application for building permit or Part IV of the 2005 Connecticut State Fire Safety Code, whichever is more stringent.