

## Fire Alarm System Installations

Overview of permit requirements for installation of a new fire alarm system or upgrades to existing system

### Purpose

This bulletin explains the permit requirements for the installation of a new fire alarm system or upgrade of an existing fire alarm system where the scope of work does not include other construction. A building permit is required for new systems and modification to existing systems. Electrical permits are to be applied for through [Technical Safety BC](#).

If the work on the fire alarm system is included as part of the building alterations, additions, change of use, etc. the established process of a building permit should be followed and the applicable fees shall be paid accordingly; however, the general requirements listed in the bulletin are still applicable.

For maintenance work to an existing fire alarm system including replacement of devices only an electrical permit is required through Technical Safety BC.

### Reference

[BC Building Code 2018](#)

[BC Fire Code 2018](#)

CAN/ULC-S524-14 Standard for Installation of Fire Alarm Systems

CAN/ULC-S537-13 Standard for Verification of Fire Alarm Systems

CAN/ULC-S536-13 Standard for Inspection and Testing of Fire Alarm Systems

### Implementation

#### New or Complete Replacement of an Existing Fire Alarm System

All new or complete replacement of an existing fire alarm system shall fully comply with all applicable codes and standards. A Schedule B from an Electrical Engineer and three (3) sets of signed and sealed drawings will be required. Upon completion of the work a copy of the Fire Alarm Verification in accordance with CAN/ULC-S537-13 "Standard for Verification of Fire Alarm System" will be required.

#### Modification or Addition to Existing System

All modified or added components must be compatible with the existing fire alarm system and must be installed in accordance with all codes and standards. Additions or modification are to be in accordance with CAN/ULC-S537-13 "Standard for Verification of Fire Alarm System". A Schedule B from an Electrical Engineer and three (3) sets of signed and sealed drawings may be required.

#### Upgrading of non-conforming Fire Alarm System

Unless after upgrading work the fire alarm system is in full compliance with all codes and standards, a report signed and sealed by a qualified professional shall be submitted at the time of permit application. The report shall include the following:

- The operation of the fire alarm system
- The scope of the proposed upgrades
- Any code deficiencies of the fire alarm system and mitigation or reasons for non-compliance

Such report will be reviewed by the Building Department and the Fire Department and the applicant will be informed of any additional requirements.

## Permit Requirements

A Building permit will be required with new installations and replacements of Fire Alarms. Where compliance with the Building Code is mentioned, it shall also mean to include that of the relevant referenced Standards. Upon completion of the work the building owner shall submit verification that all requirements of the permit have been met. Electrical permits will be required for all new work being performed from Technical Safety BC.

*Have questions? We're here to help. Please contact the Building Department at 250-490-2571 or [buildinginfo@penticton.ca](mailto:buildinginfo@penticton.ca) for more information.*

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