

# 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:**

Is a wheeled item permitted to be parked in front of a zone valve box?

## **ANSWER:**

**YES.** Provided the zone valve box remains conspicuous and any wheeled items can be immediately removed to make the zone valve box accessible.

# HITF INTERPRETATION REQUEST

## JUNE 2018

**Document to be interpreted:**

NFPA 101

**Edition:**

2012

**Subject:**

Security Systems in Stairs

### **QUESTION:**

Can security systems and devices (for example, 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?

### **ANSWER:**

YES.

# 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?

**ANSWER:**

**YES.** In accordance with Section 10.11.5 of NFPA 72 (2010 edition)

# 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:**

Is it intended that there be any correlation between the definition for “compartment” in NFPA 13 and the corresponding term “smoke compartment” in NFPA 101?

**ANSWER:**

**NO.**