

# Mecklenburg County Common Code Defects

## Common Problems in Fire Alarm Installations

7/29/04

- Approved, stamped, shop drawings on site.
- Visual notification devices shall be located not more than 15 feet from the end of a corridor-separation between devices not to exceed 100 feet.
- Wall mounted horn/strobe devices shall be mounted so that the entire lens is not less than 80 inches above finished floor, nor higher than 96 inches.
- Audible devices shall be mounted not less than 80 inches above finished floor.
- Synchronization of visible appliances is required in corridors where more than 2 devices are in any field of view, or they shall be placed a minimum of 55 feet apart.
- Pull stations shall be located within 5 feet of the exit doorway opening at each exit on each floor.
- Door openings over 40 feet wide shall have a pull station on each side of the opening.(within 5 feet of both sides)
- Additional pull stations shall be provided so that the travel distance does not exceed 200 feet. (horizontal measurement on each floor)
- Evacuation signal-Three beat temporal pattern is required in buildings when the occupants fully evacuate the building. It is not required in buildings where relocation of the occupants, or “defend in place” is the approved evacuation procedure. (high rise and health care facilities)
- Protection of the Fire Alarm Control Panel-in areas that are not continuously occupied, automatic smoke detection shall be provided at the location of each fire control unit.(includes areas protected by an automatic sprinkler system)
- Central Station-transmission of the alarm from the facility to the Central Station and then retransmission to the public fire service communications center shall occur within 90 seconds.
- Tenantless spaces located in a building with a defined core may omit notification devices until the space is upfitted for a tenant, or may proceed with installation providing full coverage. Buildings without a defined core shall provide partial coverage(one per quadrant) in tenantless spaces until such time as a full tenant upfit is done.
- Alarm notification devices are not required in small storage areas such as janitor’s closets, coat closets, etc. They are required in “common use” areas, such as conference rooms, classrooms, copy rooms, employee break rooms, treatment rooms, etc.
- In cases of discrepancies between the approved plans and actual installations, or Code interpretations, contact Senior Fire Plans Examiner Randy Turner at 704/336-3814 and/or Senior Fire Inspector Dale Carter at 704/336-8800 for assistance.

**Disclaimer:** *There may be other ways to comply with the Code. If so, you are not required to use this method to comply with the Code. You may want to investigate other options, or consult with a design professional identifying an equally code compliant solution.*

End Notes

North Carolina State Building Code

Commercial Code 2002 Edition

Publication Date: September 2001

Copyright 2001 by International Code Council

Published in cooperation with:

Southern Building Code Congress International, Inc. (SBCCI)