



BUILDINGS
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BULLETIN
TECHNICAL

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PURPOSE: To clarify visible occupant notification appliances requirements in Section 6.4.1.1 of NFPA 720, a reference standard adopted by 1RCNY §908-01, and fire markings requirements for notification appliances in Section 6.3.3.2 of NFPA 720.

SUBJECT(S): Fire alarm system, Carbon monoxide, Notification appliance devices, Strobes

RELATED CODE/RULE/NFPA SECTIONS

BC102.4, 1 RCNY §908-01, NFPA 720 Sections 6.3.3.2, 6.4.1.1, 6.5, 6.6

I. Background

Section 102.4 of the 2014 Building Code gives the Department of Buildings the authority to adopt (and/or modify) referenced standards through the Department's rulemaking process.

Once a referenced standard has been adopted through the rulemaking process, that referenced standard becomes part of the Construction Code Requirements. 1 RCNY §908-01 was initially promulgated to adopt and amend NFPA 720. The most recent amendment to 1 RCNY §908-01, effective November 9, 2019, updated the 2012 edition of NFPA 720 to the 2015 edition. This Building Bulletin clarifies NFPA 720 requirements as adopted under 1 RCNY §908-01.

II. Clarification of Visible Occupant Notification Appliances Requirements in Section 6.4.1.1

Section 6.4.1.1 of NFPA 720 states the following:

6.4.1.1 An average ambient sound level greater than 105 dBA shall require the use of a visible notification appliance(s) in accordance with Section 6.5 where the application is public mode or Section 6.6 where the application is private mode. [72:18.4.1.1]

As such, in only those cases when strobes are required under Section 6.4.1.1 of NFPA 720, or where strobes are voluntarily installed, shall a separate visible appliance device or combination visual units designated for activation of carbon monoxide system be installed.

III. Clarification of Notification Appliances Fire Marking Requirements in Section 6.3.3.2

Section 6.3.3.2 of NFPA 720 – 2015 Edition, which is incorporated in 1 RCNY §908-01 by reference, requires that notification appliances used for carbon monoxide signaling shall not have the word **FIRE**, or any fire symbol, in any form (i.e., stamped, imprinted, etc.) on the appliance visible to the public. Notification appliances with multiple visible elements are permitted to have fire markings only on those visible elements used for fire signaling.

A permanently identified lamacoid label or a permanent marking on the device with the wording **EMERGENCY** or **CARBON MONOXIDE** shall be either affixed to the combination device or within the vicinity of the visual appliance device employed by the fire alarm system. The lens of the visible appliance device shall be of amber color to distinguish between a fire and carbon monoxide system.