

# NEW YORK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION AND RESPONSE

### SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION OF FIRE ALARM SYSTEM SEQUENCE OF OPERATION

**Q. The Fire Department rule that allows licensed professionals to certify correction of fire alarm system defects by submitting the FA-26 form requires certification(s) that the work was done in accordance with all applicable code requirements and a certification of the functionality of the fire alarm system. Does the second certification require that the licensed professional verify the functionality of the entire fire alarm system or just the part of the fire alarm system that needed to be corrected?**

**A.** The latter. Subdivision (f) of the Fire Department rule, 3 RCNY 104-04, ties the verification of system operation to the defective condition that has been corrected:

Scope of Certification of Professional Verifying System Functionality. *Certification of corrected defects* constitutes a representation by the licensed or certified professional verifying the functionality of the *fire alarm system* following correction of defects, made under the authority granted to the licensed or certified professional by his or her professional license or certification and the applicable *Department* certificate, that a defect involving a missing or non-working component has been corrected and the *fire alarm system* is operating as designed in accordance with the approved plans for the *fire alarm system*, as amended by any as-built *design and installation documents*, including the Input/Output programming matrix that defines the sequence of operation (as set forth in Annex A to Section A.14.6.2.4 of NFPA Standard 72).

The second certification is intended to confirm that the fire alarm system components associated with the defective condition are now operating in accordance with the approved plans (or amended as-built plans being submitted for approval). The second certification should verify the operation of all components that were installed and/or repaired in order to correct the defective condition (essentially, the scope of work of the correction) and all related fire safety functions (as encompassed in the term “operates as designed,” as set forth in Section 104-04(e)(2)).

For example, the scope of the operational verification on the certification of correction (FA-26) form for a newly-installed, repaired, replaced or relocated smoke detector would typically be the detector, the control panel and such related fire safety functions as notification activation, door release, fan shut down, smoke control, etc. The scope of the operational verification for a newly-installed, repaired, replaced or relocated notification appliance (speaker, strobe) would typically be the appliance and the control panel that activates it.

The certification for purposes of correction of fire alarm defects does not extend to the operation of other fire alarm system components. Verification of the operation of the fire alarm system generally would be reflected on the as-built plans, consistent with the scope of work reflected on those plans.