

(Effective 1996/12/02)

Installation and Verification of Fire Alarm Systems

Section 32 of the Canadian Electrical Code, Part 1 provides for acceptable wiring methods, types of conductors, etc., for Fire Alarm Systems where such systems are mandated by the National Building Code of Canada (NBCC). A Fire Alarm System shall include all components such as detectors, alarms, audio and visual devices including communication systems incorporated as an integral part of the Fire Alarm System.

The Canadian Electrical Code (CEC) does not stipulate whether or not a building is required to have a Fire Alarm System, the type of system required or the location of its various components. Such requirements are covered under the National Building Code of Canada.

The Nova Scotia Provincial Chief Electrical Inspector has issued an Electrical Inspection Bulletin 2003-02 “Wiring Requirements for Fire Alarm Systems” **which requires that all Fire Alarm Systems required by the NBCC or those Fire Alarm Systems installed on a voluntary basis that meet the definition noted in bulletin 2003-03 (Note 1) shall comply with Section 32.**

Fire Alarm Systems which are mandated by the NBCC and voluntary installed Fire Alarm Systems that meet the definition noted in bulletin 2003-03 (see Note 1) shall be verified in accordance with standard CAN/ULC-S 537M “Standard for the Verification of fire Alarm Installations”.

This Verification shall apply to all new, addition to, alteration or repairs. Verifications shall be carried out by qualified personnel in the employ of an acceptable organization other than the installing contractor.

Electrical contractors are required to provide the Wiring Inspector with proof that the verification has been successfully completed, at the time of requesting a final inspection. No final approval shall be given without documentation that the system has been verified.

All components of the system shall comply with CEC Rule 2-024 and be installed by a certified electrical contractor. A Wiring Permit and Wiring Inspection is required for all Fire Alarm Installations.

Note 1: A voluntary fire alarm system is defined in the Provincial Chief Electrical Inspector’s Bulletin 2003-02 as consisting of at least the following interconnected devices - a control unit, a manual pull station and an audible signal device.