

INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM 2002 - 05

To: Licensed Architects
Licensed Engineers
Licensed Fire Alarm Contractors
Felicia Cooper, Deputy State Fire Marshal Administrator
Boyd Petty, Manager
Stephen Gogreve, Manager of Inspections/Arson
Pat Day, Supervisor of Health Care Inspections
Marc Reech, Executive Staff Officer
Plan Review Staff

From: Don Zeringue, Chief Architect
Jean Carter, Architect Supervisor
Fidel Fremin, Architect Supervisor
Cynthia Obier
Henry Reed, Architect Supervisor

Approved by: Mark Gates, Deputy Assistant Secretary

Date: April 3, 2002

Re: Emergency Forces Notification for Small Building Additions and Modular Classroom Buildings at Educational Occupancies

Additions to existing educational occupancies and new modular buildings brought on site to existing educational occupancies are required to comply with NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, 2000 edition. However, the policy of this office shall be to not require the enforcement of NFPA 101, 2000 edition, Section 14.3.4.3.2, Emergency Forces Notification, provided the new scope of work complies with the intent of LA R.S. 40:1574.C, reiterated as follows:

If within any twelve month period, alterations or repairs costing in excess of fifty percent of the then physical value of the building are made to an existing building, such building shall be made to conform to the requirements of the code for new construction.

Utilizing the fifty percent guideline from LA R.S. 40:1574.C will negate the requirement for the existing fire alarm system serving an entire school to change the signaling system type because of the addition of a small addition or a T-building. Changing the signaling system type could trigger replacement of the existing functioning fire alarm control panel which

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could involve replacement of functioning fire alarm devices due to different voltage requirements as compared to current systems.

Be advised that this policy is strictly limited to Emergency Forces Notification for building additions and new modular classroom buildings regarding educational occupancies. All other requirements in NFPA 101, 2000 edition, Section 14.3.4 Detection, Alarm, and Communication Systems shall be adhered to.

JCC/tm