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BULLETIN 94-6

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Issued: September 1994 Code Ref. Update: February 2006
Subject: Fire Alarm Systems
Reference: N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.4; N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.16, Electrical Subcode, Article 760;
N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.17(a)1i(5) and ii(5), Fire Protection Subcode, Chapter 9

It has come to the Department of Community Affairs' attention that fire alarm systems are not always installed and inspected in conformity with the applicable codes and referenced standards, and in accordance with the listing requirements.

As outlined in N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.4, plan review function for fire alarm systems is a joint responsibility of the electrical and fire protection subcode officials. Field inspection for power supply, fire alarm control panels, and installation wiring is the responsibility of the electrical inspector. The fire protection inspector is responsible for the selection of system type, approval of its components (such as alarm initiating devices and alarm indicating appliances), its location, and for conducting acceptance tests.

The electrical inspector should verify that the wiring used for fire alarms within the building is of suitable size and type, is listed as being suitable for the purpose, and is marked accordingly. Where wiring is installed in ducts, plenums, or other spaces used for environmental air, it is important to ensure that the wiring is also listed as having adequate fire-resistance and low-smoke-producing characteristics. The electrical inspector should also ensure that fire-protective signaling circuits are properly identified at each terminal and junction box, and in cases where the circuit is "power-limited," all connected equipment of power-limited circuits is marked accordingly.