

MEMORANDUM

Acceptable Methods of Monitor Existing Fire Alarm System for EXISTING Buildings over 80 feet in height (High-Rise)

{14B-9-901.6 & 907.6.6}

The below requirements are for existing High-Rise Buildings that are updating monitoring of their Fire Alarm System with newer technology.

In general, follow NFPA 72 2016 Edition, section 26.6 “Communications Methods for Supervising Station Alarm Systems.” The following are the requirements for the communication to the remote supervising station that is UL Listed and shall be located within the United States. The Remote Station must also have a backup location within the United States. {14B-9-901.6; 901.6.3 & 907.6.6}

- A. All installations are subject to inspection, test, and approvals from the Chicago Fire Prevention Bureau (CFPB). The communication service provider shall be reported to CFPB **48 hours** before terminating service and is subject to re-inspection, test, and approval. {901.6 & 760.215}.
- B. The communications method shall be **dual-path**; primary communicator and secondary communicator shall be required. The Primary & Secondary communications shall transmit Common Alarm, Common Supervisory, and Common Trouble. {NFPA72-2016 § 26.6.3.4}
- C. Acceptable Methods of Primary Communications:
 - a. Phone line DACT communications.
 - b. Internet Protocol (IP) communications.
- D. Acceptable Methods of Secondary Communications:
 - a. Phone line DACT communications (2nd Line) must have a separate modem by provider or dedicated copper POTS lines.
 - b. Cellular communications.
 - c. One-Way Private Radio (MESH) communications.
- E. The IP Network switch/modem shall be dedicated only for this remote connection use and shall not be used for any other purpose. The IP Network switch/modem shall have a dedicated fiber or coax connection to the internet service provider network. Unit shall be labeled – “Fire Alarm Monitoring only”.
- F. The CFPB reserves the right to make any changes necessary to these requirements.