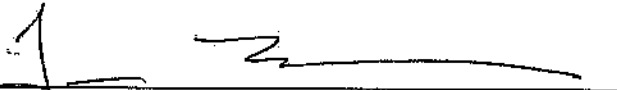


Administrative Rule 9.09.18

SUBJECT: VISIBLE ALARM NOTIFICATION DEVICES	EFFECTIVE DATE: May 1, 2018
REFERENCES: Seattle Fire Code	SUPERSEDES: Administrative Rule 9.09.07 Visible Alarm Notification Devices, October 21, 2007
	FCAB REVIEW DATE: March 20, 2018
NOTICE: Administrative Rules are established per Seattle Fire Code Section 104.1, and they are subject to the Administrative Sections 104.9 Alternate Materials and Methods, Section 104.8 Modifications, and Section 108.1 Appeals.	APPROVED:  TIMOTHY J. MUNNIS, FIRE MARSHAL/FIRE CODE OFFICIAL

SCOPE:

This Administrative Rule clarifies the requirements for installation of visible alarm notification devices for new fire alarm systems and for alteration, replacement or upgrades of existing fire alarm systems in existing buildings.

WHEN REQUIRED:

Visible alarm devices installed in accordance with this rule shall be provided for:

- New fire alarm systems.
- Replacement fire alarm systems.
- Existing fire alarm systems with visual alarm devices located in the space being altered.
- Existing fire alarm systems, without visible alarm devices, which are undergoing an upgrade.
- Existing buildings undergoing a substantial alteration as determined by the City of Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections.

Exception: Each non-residential space which has not started interior build-out is allowed to be provided with a single visible alarm notification device until the initial build-out of the space occurs, at which time full coverage in accordance with this rule is required. A space is considered any size area not subdivided by full height walls from other areas.

Upgrade of a fire alarm system

For purposes of this rule a fire alarm system is considered to be upgraded when a fire alarm project includes replacing a majority of a fire alarm system's notification circuits and/or

appliances, as determined by the Fire Code Official. The determination of majority is based on evaluating the entire fire alarm system, not a portion of the system.

Alteration of a space with visible alarm devices located in the space being altered.

Alteration of a space that contains existing visible alarm notification devices requires adding and/or relocating visible alarm notification devices to provide complete coverage within the altered space. This requirement also applies to vacant non-residential spaces where the initial alarm installation included incomplete visible alarm device coverage.

Alteration of a space with no visible alarm devices in the space being altered.

Alteration of a space with an existing fire alarm system, with no visible alarm notification devices, requires installation of the devices only when the alteration includes an upgrade of the fire alarm system.

Fire alarm projects not involving alteration of a space

Fire alarm projects not associated with an alteration of a space do not require installation of visible alarm devices unless the work is considered to be an upgrade of a fire alarm system. Upgrades of fire alarm systems trigger a requirement to install visible alarm devices throughout the building in those areas where visible alarm devices are required.

Fire alarm panel replacement

Replacement of a fire alarm panel, and/or smoke detectors is a maintenance function. It does not constitute a system upgrade, system replacement, or new system; therefore, it does not trigger a requirement to install visible alarm notification devices. Maintenance to fire alarm systems involving anything other than panel replacement and/or initiating device replacement requires the installation of visible alarm notification devices throughout a building when the work is determined to be an upgrade of a fire alarm system.

LOCATION OF VISIBLE ALARM NOTIFICATION DEVICES

When visible alarm notification devices are required, they shall be installed throughout public and common use areas as defined in the Seattle Fire Code. The only spaces allowed to be without visible alarm notification devices are single person offices, electrical rooms less than 300 square feet, mechanical rooms less than 300 square feet, telephone equipment rooms less than 300 square feet, exit enclosures (stairways), within private individual leased storage rooms, operating rooms in hospitals, patient rooms and their adjoining restrooms in hospitals, and in storage rooms less than 300 square feet. Even though open plan office arrangements are compromised largely of single person office spaces there is typically a significant amount of shared circulation paths within these areas that do require visible alarm notification devices.

Additional Requirements for Group I and R Occupancies

The Seattle Fire Code requires a certain number of sleeping units or dwelling units in group I-1 and R-1 occupancies to be provided with visible alarm notification devices that are activated by both the building fire alarm system and the in-room smoke alarms. For those units required to be provided with visible alarm notification devices, the devices shall be installed throughout the unit except in closets that are not walk-in closets.

For R-2 occupancies (apartment buildings, condominiums etc) the Seattle Fire Code requires every unit to be provided with the capability to support visible alarm notification appliances. The wiring for the in-unit horns shall be considered to meet the requirements of this section.

For R-2 occupancies in buildings with emergency voice alarm systems a visible alarm circuit separate from the speaker circuit is required for each dwelling unit and allowed to be terminated at the location of the emergency voice alarm speaker.