



April 23, 2018

Information Bulletin

Exterior Fire Alarm Annunciator Panels

The British Columbia Building Code requires that fire alarm systems, including devices and equipment such as remote annunciators, be installed in conformance with CAN/ULC-S524-06, "Installation of Fire Alarm Systems." Section 3.1.3 of CAN/ULC-S524-06 lists the Standards governing the installation of all devices and equipment used in a fire alarm system, which also includes ULC-S527 for control units.

Where a remote annunciator is intended to be installed outdoors, it must either:

- a) Be approved for the condition of use with respect to the listed installation environment (i.e. ambient temperature and relative humidity) and for its location (i.e. indoor or outdoor) and the remote annunciator must be marked as such, or
- b) Be provided with environmental protection by an approved rated enclosure (i.e. Type 3R) and unit heater. Because there is no (ULC or CSA) standard for such an assembly, this assembly could be accepted as being approved only under the provisions of a Special Inspection performed to the SPE-1000. Please see Appendix B of Section O of the Canadian Electrical Code for more information.
 - A Site Specific SPE-1000 Field Inspection Certification will be required, to review the installation with respect to fire, shock, maintenance requirements, conditions of use and environmental factors. Regardless of inspection certification performed before installation at the site, an on-site SPE-1000 Field Inspection Certification is required.

Further to Option B above, the following requirements will apply:

- The enclosure and annunciator assembly will be located in an area protected from direct weather, such as under an overhang or roof structure, as approved by the AHJ.
- The enclosure will be monitored by the fire alarm system to ensure the heater is maintained to meet the manufacturer's run temperatures. This could be achieved with use of a thermostat within the enclosure, monitored for trouble by the fire alarm system.
- The certified installer is to use a weatherproof cable with a gland on the inside with a locknut and a weatherproof connector (caulking is not acceptable).
- A field review will be conducted by the Electrical Engineer, and a copy provided to the AHJ, documenting that the connection used between the field wiring and the enclosure is approved as noted above. The field review will be supported by the Schedule B and CB from the Electrical Engineer.

- SPE-1000 site inspection approval report will be provided to the AHJ and be incorporated into the Fire Safety Plan.
- Annual maintenance and testing requirements for the enclosure and unit heater will be included in the Fire Safety Plan.
- A letter will be provided by the manufacturer of the fire alarm equipment, confirming that the warranty of the equipment will be recognized.
- The enclosure will be provided with 3 separate approval labels including approvals for:
 - ULC-S7659 – Evaluation S527-11, 3rd Edition,
 - Special Inspection Service SPE-1000 and
 - *cUR* – Underwriters Recognized for outdoor wet locations housing 3rd party equipment

Fire alarm remote annunciators and other devices and equipment that do not have proper certification or are not enclosed within an approved enclosure as noted above shall be located in an indoor environment that complies with CAN/ULC-S524-06.

Any repair, replacement or modification of an existing fire alarm system is required to comply with this Bulletin.