AMA Regional SCO Meeting Minutes

Building, Fire, Electrical, Plumbing, Gas & Private Sewage

Medicine Hat

Wednesday October 26, 2016
8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede
2055 21 Avenue SE
Grandstand Banquet Room

Facilitators

John Wilson,
Building Inspector, AMA
Charles Maximilian,
Building Inspector, AMA

Minutes

Safety Codes Council Updates

Orders & Variances
- QMP templates for Agencies, Municipalities, and Corporations have been reviewed.
- A pilot of the Orders & Variances Registry is underway, with a full launch expected in early 2017.

Training updates
- The new Building SCO certification and training structure took effect on October 3, 2016.
- The Fire SCO Certification consultation received 522 responses, which are being analyzed and will be discussed by the Fire Certification and Training Working Group.
- Energy code training continues, Plumbing Group B SCO training is available, Plumbing Group A code update training will be available in November 2016, Gas Group A courses are in development.
- The Student Awards Program’s next submission deadline is April 15.

ACT Project – Accreditation, Certification, and Training Management Platform
- A new management system for the Accreditation, Certification and Training programs is being developed. It will improve service delivery, offer self-serve options to SCOs and other customers, and increase the Council’s efficiency by streamlining and automating tasks.
- They system will also be used by SCOs to track professional development (PD) activities; feedback from the PD consultation showed that SCOs need an easy
way to track activities and input information.

- The system is expected to be operational at the beginning of 2018.
- Updates were given about some topics being discussed at the Building, Electrical, Fire, Plumbing and Gas Sub-Councils. Details can be found in sub-council meeting minutes, which are posted on the Council website once they are approved.

ASCA updates
- An update on the Alberta Safety Codes Authority (ASCA) was given. ASCA began operations on May 1, 2016.

Council priorities for 2017-2020
- The Council’s priorities for 2017-2020, which describe work to be done to meet the Council’s strategic goals of Safety, Education, Governance, Sustainability, and Service Delivery, were described.
- More detail on these items may be found in the Council Business Plan, which will be published in January 2017.

Presentation
MGA and Codes. Where do they connect?
- Safety codes presentation to the MGA regional presentation displaying the need to work together
- Development and safety codes working together minimizing future issues
- Development needs to be approved first; building permit should be sure of the development approval before issuing building permit.
- Development permit required changing in use/change in excavation or stockpiling/
- Working on permitting on first nations/ ongoing
- Mandating secondary suites provided or guidance from the province? Affects the new home warranty and may void warranty if developed after the initial construction is completed.

Administrative Penalties
- Update Dec. 1st, 2016 expected to be accepted by cabinet
- Additional tool to gain compliance; not to replace orders or prosecution.
- Administrative penalties team will assist municipality through the process to gain compliance.
- Phased in approach allowing for growth
- Intent is to modify behaviour to gain compliance
- Potential reasons for penalties, sale/installation of uncertified products with no certification. Builder/operator not compiling to the order/ multi-storey not requesting occupancy from AHJ before occupancy of completed floors
- Administrative penalties will be subject to appeal
- Factors to consider
- Severity of contravention: willful non-compliance/degree of negligence, failing to obtain permits, economic gain using non-certified products.
- Timing of enforcement, within three years
- Appealed within 30 days of service.
- All parties involved will be notified of the decision made.
- Proceeds go to the general revenue fund
Fire Alarm Monitoring as per ULC S561

- Provided all attendees with an information package on the ULC-S561
- ULC-S561 compliments the ULC S524 Installation standard and S537 verification standard (see attached notes)
- S561 first referenced in the 2016 ABC. S561 compliance is required of buildings built under the 2006 or 2014 ABC or where the Fire Alarm System is replaced for the types of buildings noted below.
- Any two stage system must comply with s561
- All assembly occupancies with an occupant load of more than 300 people must comply.
- If the system has a fire sprinkler flow switch must comply with S561
- Building code states, monitoring system must have a certificate; fire code states that the system must be maintained under S561
- S561 Monitoring station must - MUST MAINTAIN AND KEEP RECORDS
- S561 Key Signals - Fire alarm verification signal needs to be transmitted in 60 sec/ trouble and supervisory signals contact customer within 5 min/communication issues contact customer within 5 minutes
- Can only issue certificates if ULC certified to do so
- Monitoring stations do are not required to be local but they must have a local (within 4 hours) co-listed company to conduct maintenance and repairs to the monitoring portion of the system.
- Existing systems approved under S527 may need upgrades such as protected wiring/electrical supply/separate electrical breaker/monitoring station contact info/grounded
- Digital phone service in the works; in development for new standard s561
- ULC certificated system must be monitored by approved station and installed by ULC certified installer

Certificate valid for 5 years/ if certificate is canceled the AHJ/building owner receives notice (this is currently being implemented).

Overview of Safety System Discussion Feedback
Feedback recorded and updates will be provided at a later date.

Pierre McDonald,
Regulatory Affairs Representative, ULC

David Ramsay,
AMA

Allison Karch,
Safety Codes Council

ADJOURNMENT ***
Meeting Minutes will be posted on the Safety Codes Council website
http://www.safetycodes.ab.ca/SCO/Pages/Regional-Meetings.aspx
AMA Regional SCO Meeting Minutes

Concurrent Break-Out Session - Building

Wednesday October 26, 2016
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Grandstand Banquet Room

Facilitators

John Wilson,
Building
Inspector, AMA

Charles
Maximilian,
Building
Inspector, AMA

Minutes

Fire Safety Plans & SCO Authority

- Construction fire safety plan now required as directed by AMA STANDATA
- All SCOs have an obligation and jurisdiction to deal with fire safety at all times and in all phases of a building’s life cycle.

Question: Smaller municipality what does the fire safety plan need for details?
Answer: The STANDATA has all the required details of items that are required. Link for the construction fire safety plan template: http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/documents/ss/STANDATA/fire/fci/FCI-09-03.pdf

Energy Code PowerPoint Presentation

- See Information package for copy of Energy Efficiency presentation

AMA

Discussion Topics from SCO’s

- Tiny Houses – how does the ABC apply?
- Professional Schedules for NECB Parkland County

AMA

Updates from Municipal Affairs

Information packages supplied by municipal affairs to all attendees

Panella Zolln
Robert Green

AMA

Barrier-free:

- Barrier-free guide has been completed waiting approval and will be available to all stakeholders once approved.
- Provided the draft STANDATA and mandatory form to consider barrier-free relaxation.
If you have suggestion or comments on the draft forward to barrier-free administrator.

**Question:** Will the information packages be available on the council’s website with the meeting minutes once they are posted?

**Answer:** Yes, the meeting minutes as well as the Agenda and the Information Packages will be available to SCO’s through the Council’s website at: [http://www.safetycodes.ab.ca/SCO/Pages/Regional-Meetings.aspx](http://www.safetycodes.ab.ca/SCO/Pages/Regional-Meetings.aspx)

9.36. Compliance

- Checklist to be published by Edmonton/Calgary/AMA codes and standards to assist and provide continuity throughout the province.
- Information required by division C
- Existing Professional schedules are still applicable in regards to NECB.
- Responsibility of the designer to show that the building complies.
- Suggested changes to schedules currently sitting with AMA

Pull Stations Lower Floors Update

- NRC explanation/clarification provided intended for the common areas not residential secondary exit.
- See document within Information package for additional details.

Garage Wall construction

- RSI requirements for attached garage walls must meet the same value as the perimeter envelope.
- No consensus that the walls of an attached garage would not require to meet the 9.36 requirements due to the wording of 9.36.2.1 8)OR/AND
- Nothing official some responded with the suggestion that it was not the intent of the code to increase RSI value of an unheated space.

**AMA Response:** All exterior walls of an attached heated or unheated garage are required to be provided with the RSI values provided in the applicable Table being used for the design of the house.

Bedroom Egress Windows

- NRC response, .35msq open-able /sliders allowed the intent is that the window is not excessively large.

Gender Neutral Washrooms

- Code only requires a number of washroom facilities per occupant load and care has to be taken in the design meeting all code requirements (eg. full height doors, barrier free.)

***ADJOURNMENT***

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AMA Regional SCO Meeting Minutes

Concurrent Break-Out Session - Fire

Wednesday October 26, 2016
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Hungry Horseman

Facilitators

Kevan Jess,
Chief Fire
Administrator,
AMA
Tom Harnos,
Field Officer,
AMA

Minutes

Discussion Topics / Questions

1) How do we treat the tow behind BBQ's and open air BBQ's on a mobile deck?

Other than ensuring there are spatial distances between the BBQ's and any combustible products/structures, the propane cylinder is certified and the maintenance of the BBQ appears to be clean and maintained, there is nothing under the AFC that would require these types of food vendors to have a fire suppression system. Fire extinguishing device (i.e. fire extinguisher) should be in close proximity to the BBQ.

2) Easy Rock – interior applications:

http://www.easyrock.biz/support/ratings-certifications

The question was, has anyone seen this product being used on the inside of restaurants and does anyone have any information on it.

Intertek Canada's information:

All products certified through Intertek may be found on their website: http://www.intertek.com/building/ under Building Products (bottom screen, right side of page) https://whdirectory.intertek.com/Pages/DLP_Search.aspx Select the company name and it will take you to the product and the standard in which it was certified to.
Easyrock is certified to ULCS102-2007 Surface Building Characteristics of Building Materials and Assemblies.

3) Any municipalities allowing the use of private dry hydrants?

Consensus was most municipalities do not allow for a private dry hydrant nor would any FD’s draft from them.
4) Is there a recognized product(s) for spray foam applications? Municipal Affairs does not endorse products, however, the following are products that have supporting documentation that indicates they meet a 2hr fire resistance rating:


Hilti CP660
https://www.hilti.ca/medias/sys_master/images/hb0/9196227002398/firestop.pdf

5) Are we aware of anyone in the insurance industry that will void insurance if a business does not comply with fire code requirements (i.e. failing to get their annual inspection done on their fire suppression over their deep fat fryer and there is a kitchen fire or failing to get their kitchen exhaust cleaned by a recognized cleaning exhaust company)?

We reached out to one of our contacts in the insurance industry and they provided the following response:

Property wordings can have a Property Protection Systems clause in them that requires the client to advise of any interruption to or flaw in any sprinkler system, fixed extinguishing system, or fire detection system. If the case set a precedent or there was a trend, then an article might be posted in magazines such as Canadian Underwriter.

http://www.canadianunderwriter.ca/

He was not aware of any incidents within the province of Alberta. Typically a denied claim is a private matter between the client and the insurer. In the event the insured disputes the claim and they proceed to court, such proceedings can become public and are searchable.

6) Phil Acklands Training Course.

http://www.philacklandtraining.com/

a. Who offers the program and provides the training in Alberta?
   The 5 day program is only offered out of Fort Worth Texas. All other courses are on-line.

b. Who audits this program?
   The Chief Fire Administrator (CFA) works with and approves training for commercial cooking exhaust systems. If there are any issues with this program or members working in the industry that have taken this program, SCO’s may contact the CFA with their concerns.
2.2.4. Qualifications

2.2.4.5. Commercial Cooking Equipment Exhaust Systems

1) Only qualified persons shall perform maintenance on commercial cooking equipment exhaust systems when they have obtained a certificate verifying they have completed an approved course of training in duct-cleaning procedures.

7) Tele-warrants:

The process has been set and approved, but with the OFC that is yet to be tested. The suggestion was made that if any municipality was at a point of using a tele-warrant they could share their challenges and successes with the group. The Tele-Warrant information is laid out in the Safety Codes Act section 48.1., but the “playbook” or steps are not. Can that loop be closed and a step by step process with applicable form be put together and made available to everyone.

8) Food Trucks:

There was an ask for a set of provincial standards for food truck operations/guidelines that municipalities could follow and build their own requirements/bylaws, they are looking forward to Kevan Jess’s updated (hope to be a STANDATA, possible using the new NFPA 96 standards) on food trucks.

9) Fire SCO Scope of Practice:

Concerns were brought up about the proposed changes to the scope of practice to safety codes officers (fire), what those changes will be and how it will be delivered.

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**ADJOURNMENT ***

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AMA Regional SCO Meeting Minutes

Concurrent Break-Out Session - Electrical

Wednesday October 26, 2016
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Wild Rose Room

Facilitators

Kevin Glubrecht,
Senior Electrical Inspector, AMA

Clarence Cormier, Chief Electrical Administrator, AMA

Minutes

1. STANDATA Presentation by Clarence

2. Discussion Topics / Question by Kevin
   • Staying current – SCA responsibilities, how to subscribe to STANDATA
   • PV requirements
   • AFCI requirements
   • Mud Tanks
   • Branch circuit loading
   • Farm Services
   • Bonding 2 or more buildings
   • Engineers and Variances
   • Sprinkler and Electrical equipment
   • Lighting over bathtub

Additions from the floor

3. Info All
   • SCO’s have seen transfer switches in the field with UL labels, also seen equipment without any markings, however, they looked into the product and it is a certified product with no label.
   • Contractors want to use 20 amp parking receptacles this is currently not allowed, this has been sent to the Sub-Council for review. Clarence mentioned this is probably because the car block heaters are following the Part 2 Standards and only rated for 15 amps.
   • 600v service to the first building then carries on to a second building where it connects to the transformer and steps down to a 208v/120v service. This would be considered a separate service at this point and require to be grounded not bonded.
• You can use Aluminum to ground but it can’t be in direct buried.
• AMA has let the Safety Codes Council know they should start making a Group B update course for the new utility code which is to be adopted May 1, 2017.

4. **Addition to Submission**

• Sprinklers in electrical rooms - They have an electrical room with a 3000 Amp service and a UPS battery room, which both have sprinklers above the equipment. The room is rated to not require sprinklers. The drip shield is installed but there are many other entry points for water. The SCO is denying occupancy permit until the sprinklers are removed. There is also a new school with the same scenario but the sprinkler head is located on the wall and pointing directly at the front of the main service. SCO is enforcing this under CE Code rule 2-124 and has included articles from the building code to support his thinking that sprinklers are not required if room meets the criteria in the building code.

• Lighting over bathtub - One SCO said they call this item under CE Code rule 30-300 this requires the contractor to remove the hanging light from over the tub and replace with a flush mount.

5. **Question and Answer**

• Is a riding arena considered a building housing livestock?
  
  Answer: The reason for the bonding back to the main service is to eliminate tingle voltage which affects livestock, whether the livestock is staying in the arena for extended periods of time or not is irrelevant, if livestock can be in the building single point grounding is required.

• Disciplinary of Master Electricians, how long does this process take?
  
  Answer: Currently at the Safety Codes Council for review. Suggestion from other SCO’s: There are other avenues you can take such as; denying a business license.

**ADJOURNMENT ***

Meeting Minutes will be posted on the Safety Codes Council website
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AMA Regional SCO Meeting Minutes

Concurrent Break-Out Session - Plumbing, Gas & Private Sewage

Wednesday October 26, 2016
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Cactus Room

Facilitators

Minutes

Discussion Topics / Questions - INFO ALL

• **Food trucks**
  - Are they a building with occupancy? Yes
  - Must comply with the B149.1 and .2
  - Require gas permits
  - Must have certified/approved gas appliances
  - Must conform to the requirements of NFPA 96
  - When will Sidney and Keva come out with a new STANDATA?

• **Hydronic Heating**
  - New insulation requirements under slabs

• **Plumbing vents**
  - Vents in exterior walls and new insulation requirements

• **Expiration of Var-Gas-01-13**
  - June 30, 2016

• **LEMS program**
  - How to register? Contact AMA
  - When does it end? January 1, 2020

• **Reclaimed water**
  - Local municipality must be involved.

• **Water cisterns**
  - Must meet the B126-13 standard

• **Reporting incidents in the gas discipline**
  - When reporting is required.

**ADJOURNMENT *****
Meeting Minutes will be posted on the Safety Codes Council website
http://www.safetycodes.ab.ca/SCO/Pages/Regional-Meetings.aspx
CAN/ULC-S561

To comply, or not to comply....actually it’s not even a question!

By Frank Donati, Brian McBain & Al Cavers

CAN/ULC-S561, Installation And Services For Fire Signal Receiving Centres And Systems is without a doubt one of the most misunderstood standards in the lexicon of the ULC S500 Series of Fire and Life Safety Standards. Simply stated, CAN/ULC-S561 promotes reliable fire alarm monitoring. This standard has been a Code requirement in Canada for over 10 years and yet every day Authorities find non-compliant systems and ULC, along with organizations like the Canadian Fire Alarm Association (CFAA), field daily inquiries about in conformity to, listing of, requirements for and understanding of CAN/ULC- S561. This article will endeavor to provide for a better understanding of this Standard, its place and requirements, in fire and life safety systems.

Why is it important?
In Canada, fire alarm system installations are required to meet the intent of the applicable National or Provincial/Territory Building Code. The Codes require that signals to the Fire Signal Receiving Centre are received and disposed of in a uniform manner.

NB: For this article, the National Model Codes 2010 shall be referenced.

The CAN/ULC-S561 Standard covers:
• Construction, operation, installation, inspection and tests applicable to fire signal receiving centres for fire protective signalling services utilizing fire signal receiving centre facilities and satellite centres and bridging centres;
• Construction and operation of a proprietary fire signal receiving centre; and
• Installation, inspection and tests applicable to a fire signal transmitting unit and its field device inputs at the protected premises.

Fire signal receiving centres come in two defined types; a Signal Receiving Centre and a Proprietary Fire Signal Receiving Centre. What’s the difference? A Signal Receiving Centre is a facility that receives alarm signals and at which trained personnel and service persons are on duty at all times.
• Think normal commercial businesses like an ADT or Chubb Edwards - these involve the monitoring of multiple properties and/or for multiple owners.

A Proprietary Fire Signal Receiving Centre is a facility, operated by the owner of the protected premises in which services encompassed in this Standard are monitored at all times by trained personnel.
• Think Specific business or facility with one owner, often having multiple sites and no third party monitoring. These are often Hospitals or Universities with large multi-building campuses with their own in-house policing/security service that can provide 24/7 monitoring. Also some national retail chains will provide their own monitoring of their facilities.

Codes and Standards
The National Model Codes govern the requirements for signals to the fire department, for new buildings it’s the National Building Code of Canada (NBC) and for existing buildings is the National Fire Code of Canada (NFC). The occupancies that are generally required to have CAN/ULC-S561 compliance are:
For Single Stage Fire Alarm System
- Group A -Assembly Occupancy - >300

For Two Stage Fire Alarm System
- All Occupancies at the Alert Stage initiation

All Occupancies with a Fire Alarm System that includes Water-flow devices

Note: Certain jurisdictions have added additional occupancies to these requirements.

Note: Alberta requires the owner of a building to provide evidence of compliance to the AHJ by means of a Fire Protective Signalling Certificate from a certified listing agency. This certificate must show the address of the building, the listed fire alarm installation company and the listed fire alarm monitoring company. The ULC Fire Protective Signalling Certificate Program meets these requirements.

The fire monitoring service for a building fire alarm system is mandated in Canada in the NBC Division B, 3.2.4.8 (4) and in the NFC Division B, 6.3.1.3. Further Code references for fire alarm monitoring service and CAN/ULC-S561 conformity are made through three other Code referenced ULC fire alarm standards.

1. CAN/ULC-S524, Standard for Installation of Fire Alarm Systems which is referenced at NBC Division B, 3.2.4.5 (1) has as its last enforceable clause:
   - 5.15.1 (CAN/ULC-S524) - The interconnection wiring from the fire alarm control unit or transponder to the fire signal receiving centre shall comply with CAN/ULC-S561, Installation and Services for Fire Signal Receiving Centres and Systems.

2. and CAN/ULC-S537, Verification of Fire Alarm Systems in NBC 3.2.4.5.(2) contains within it the following:
   - CAN/ULC-S537-04 Appendix C2  (G) - Documentation to include the name and number of the Fire Signal Receiving Centre  (CAN/ULC-S561), and the And the latest edition of CAN/ULC-S537-13, has expanded this section to impart the importance on fire monitoring:
     - (CAN/ULC-S561-13) NOTE: This standard presupposes that, where provided, the interconnection from the fire alarm control unit or transponder to the fire signal receiving centre shall comply with CAN/ULC-S561, Standard for Installation and Services for Fire Signal Receiving Centres and Systems. (Refer to Items A to I in Appendix C5.13, Interconnection to Fire Signal Receiving Centre.)

3. And CAN/ULC-S536, Inspection and Testing of Fire Alarm Systems  in NFC Division B, 6.3.1.2.(1)

The key take away here is that the fire alarm system monitoring is an extension of the fire alarm system, hence similar installation methods, and carries the same importance for installation and maintenance as the fire alarm system.

Fire Monitoring System
So, what is a fire monitoring system? It is a Fire alarm system or a sprinkler riser that is connected to a fire alarm transmitter for the purposes of transmitting fire alarm conditions from the protected property to a fire signal receiving centre in order to dispatch the correct responding authorities.
All 3 parts are required to make up a compliant system. This article focuses on Fire Signal Receiving Centres but will touch on the installation and periodic testing for them.

**Signal Receiving Centre vs. Proprietary**

There are two types of Fire Signal Receiving Centres (FSRC) as defined earlier in this article and CAN/ULC-S561 outlines how to construct, secure, equip and operate each of these types of Centres.

**Fire Signal Receiving Centre**

Is a facility that receives alarm signals and at which trained persons are on duty at all times. This facility must consist of the following:

- Facility with 2hr. Fire rating
- Signal receivers, station automation computer
- Dedicated Power Source
- Back-up systems which include – Telephone back-up, generator, Uninterrupted Power Supply Units (UPS)
- Security Vestibule- Interlocked Doors where only one can be opened at a time by the alarm room operator.
- CCTV Camera System and intercom
- Early warning fire protection system
- Fire Extinguishers
- Buddy System – as in back up alarm centre
- Trained staff to handle and dispatch alarms – 24hrs a day/7 days a week
- Contingency Plan – for unforeseen disasters – natural or man-made

Fire Signal Receiving Centres receiving the following alarms or notification from the fire alarm system

- Fire Alarm
- Fire Trouble
- Fire Supervisory
- AC Fail
- Communication Failures

**Proprietary Signal Receiving Centre**

Is a facility that is operated by the owner of the protected premises in which services encompassed in this Standard are monitored at all times by trained personnel. The owner of the property monitors and maintains its own premise. Examples again include - universities, hospitals, Walmart, Target. These facilities must consist of the following:

- 2 hour fire separation.
  - Exception- 1 hour only if the building is sprinklered.
• Single locked door
• Owner will provide Staffing 24/7
• Owner usually provides installation and maintenance on the protected premises.
• Owner usually provides a runner service.

Also the installations at the protected buildings can be proprietary fire alarm equipment or off the shelf fire alarm transmitters.

**Installation of a Fire Alarm monitoring system**

Although there are differences between an FRSC and a Proprietary system regarding the physical centres themselves, the installation of a CAN/ULC-S561 compliant fire alarm monitoring system at the protected premises are very similar. Both require:

- Transmitter that is CAN/ULC- S559
  (a Proprietary System is eligible to use CAN/ULC-S527 Compliant transmitter)
- Manufacturer’s Installation Instructions.
- Communication Channels
- Metallic raceway for interconnecting wires
- Supervision of circuits
- Installed as per CAN/ULC-S561
- Tested prior to occupancy

When it comes to the transmission of signals, CAN/ULC-S561 lays out the methods of communication for these systems. Communications can be Active or Passive. Active means that the channel between the fire alarm system and the alarm centre is continuously monitored so that any fault or failure that could affect signal transmission and reception is identified to the fire signal receiving centre. Passive means that it is not monitored but that incorporates dual or multiple communications. These dual or more channels create a communication system where the signal is transmitted through all channels and when acknowledgement through one is received, the other(s) will stop transmitting that signal. These channels also monitor each other for any faults and is tested every 24hrs.

Regardless of Active or Passive, the maximum time to receive a fire alarm signal from a protected premise is **60 seconds**, and this brings us to the requirements for accuracy of Signals.

All installed fire monitoring systems shall be properly programed to transmit accurate signals to the Signal Receiving Centre in order that the operators can quickly dispatch responding authorities. Therefore there can be no miscommunication of what is occurring at the system,

- Fire Alarm = Fire Alarm
- Fire Trouble = Fire Trouble
- Fire Supervisory = Fire Supervisory

and there can be no conflicting signals (i.e. Burglar alarm – there are provisions for a location to be both fire and burglar alarmed through the same transmitter but fire alarm signals ALWAYS take precedents over burglar).

It’s not just the transmitted signals that are required to be accurate for compliance with CAN/ULC-S651 but also that the Contact Lists for each protected premise is up to date, that the proper fire department phone numbers are recorded (and not just 911) and that there is no system of verification of fire alarm signals prior to notification of the fire service to respond. CAN/ULC-S651 provides for the disposition of signals as follows:

- maximum time to receive a fire alarm signal from a protected premise is **60 seconds**.
• maximum time to contact the fire department is within **30 seconds**
• maximum time to contact persons designated by the owner is within **5 minutes**
• maximum time for Fire Trouble and Supervisory, Communications Troubles or Signal Transmitting Unit Troubles is to contact the owner within **5 minutes**
• and that a service company/personnel is within **4 hours** of the location to effect repairs.

A note on Standalone Sprinkler Risers

Standalone Sprinkler Risers that are monitored have the same time frame requirements but only transmit the following signals:
• Waterflow (alarm)
• Fire Trouble
• Fire Supervisory (pressure and gate valves)

As the communications systems of fire alarm systems are tested communication, active or passive, CAN/ULC-S561 lays out further required periodic testing which is also referenced in CAN/ULC-S536.
• Fire Alarm System - Annually
• Waterflow - Every two months
• Supervisory- Gate Valves, Pressure - Every Six months

**How do you make sure all these requirements are met?**
Compliance with CAN/ULC-S561 is not a simple matter of just checking off a box or two but rather involves a complete audit of both the Receiving Centre and the Fire Alarm Transmitter. Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), Property Owners and Alarm Companies all require the knowledge that the fire monitoring system as a whole is in compliance. The National Codes required that these systems to comply to the NBC/NFC – Signals to the Fire Department by way of Fire Alarm Monitoring System in Compliance to CAN/ULC-S561 and that they shall provide a Certificate of Compliance attesting that the fire alarm monitoring system is in compliance to the applicable Standard for submission to the AHJ.

What kind of certificate to submit? There are two options,
1. A document that is acceptable to the Authority Having Jurisdiction. Your local Building Official for new construction/installation and your Fire Official for existing buildings/installations. Or

Companies that are certified to CAN/ULC-S561 can be found on our ULC Online Directory at [http://database.ul.com/cgi-bin/XYV/template/LISCANADA/1FRAME/index.html](http://database.ul.com/cgi-bin/XYV/template/LISCANADA/1FRAME/index.html)
and using the following ULC Category Codes:
DAYRC- CAN/ULC-S559-04 Equipment
DAYYY- CAN/ULC-S561-04 – Shared Installation Co.
DAYIC - CAN/ULC-S561-03 – Shared and Full Service Fire Signal Receiving Centres

A Final Note
CAN/ULC-S561 is a vital component in the chain of Fire Alarm standards and is mandated by our Codes, yet is possibly one of the highest non-conformity issues with fire alarm systems that require monitoring. Although the National Codes have since 2005 explicitly required CAN/ULC-S561 conformity, for the upcoming 2015 National Codes ULC has submitted an Appendix Note to further clarify the interconnection between it and CAN/ULC-S524 Installation of Fire Alarm Systems so that Code users and enforcement authorities ensure complete conformance with Code requirements. The draft Appendix note submitted (and as of this writing not yet finalized by the Codes Commission) is: CAN/ULC-S561, “Installation and Services for Fire Signal Receiving Centres and Systems,” which is referenced in Sentence 3.2.4.8.(4), and CAN/ULC-S524, “Installation of Fire Alarm Systems,” which is referenced in Sentence 3.2.4.5.(1), go hand-in-hand: conformity to CAN/ULC-S561 entails conformity with the fire alarm system components required in that standard. These components include fire alarm transmitter (signal transmitting unit), interconnections and communication path.

We hope you have a clearer picture and understanding of CAN/ULC-S561, its requirements and how it fits into our Codes and requirements for fire alarm systems. If any further assistance, interpretation, details or concerns are required, do not hesitate to contact either ULC Regulatory Services or Certificate Services below. The CAN/ULC-S561 Standard, along with any other ULC standards, can be purchased at the link below:
ULC Store: http://canada.ul.com/ulcstandards/aboutus/salesofulcstandardsmaterials/

ULC Regulatory Services
For additional information or questions ULC Regulatory Services is here to help.
Contact Brian McBain by email at Brian.McBain@ul.com or by Telephone at +1.613.751.3404 or
Pierre McDonald by email at Pierre.McDonald@ul.com or by telephone at: +1.780.419.3202

ULC Certificate Services
For additional information or questions to ULC Certificate Services you can reach them at
+1.866.937.3852
Cheryl Cerqua ext 61224
Alan Cavers ext. 61207
Or via email at TRT.Certificate@ul.com

ULC...Working for a Safer World
CERTIFICATION BULLETIN 2014-02

UL ENHANCED MARK FOR CANADA

Products today must meet a diverse spectrum of certification and compliance requirements. On May 16, 2013, UL launched the enhanced Certification Mark to help the Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs), manufacturers, retailers and consumers better understand the scope of certification for a given product. All currently existing versions of UL’s Listing and Classification Marks remain valid and should continue to be accepted. This bulletin addresses visual identifiers of the enhanced Certification Mark in the Canadian marketplace.

This enhanced Mark is a modular design that acts as a singular identifier describing product’s scope of Certification, Country Code and unique identifier (also known as the UL file number). The enhanced Certification Mark utilizes the familiar “UL in a Circle” Mark as the central unique design element consistent to all UL’s marks to which the information module(s) are added. In compliance with the Standards Council of Canada CAN-P-1500-2013, clause 4.2.2, UL has introduced the “CA” Country abbreviation code provided in ISO 3166 to identify products evaluated to Canadian standards. As inspectors across the country are very familiar with the “c” at the 8:00 o’clock position, this bulletin is to provide some additional guidance regarding the enhanced Certification Mark’s use of the “CA” Country identifier.

The Marks Hub is UL’s official source of information about the enhanced mark and is free to use. We encourage you to utilize the resources there for the latest and most up to date information. For additional information or for answers to specific questions, please contact: Mr. Pierre McDonald, Senior Regulatory Representative T: 780.419.3202, M: 780.236.0131, Email: pierre.mcdonald@ul.com

The following examples illustrate the enhanced Certification Marks and the “CA” Canadian Identifier. Country Identifiers will appear within the module right after the Attributes describing the scope of Certification.

Yours truly,

Underwriters Laboratories of Canada Inc.

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