



Collier County Fire Prevention and Protection Code POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL



ARTICLE NUMBER: FAL 07-1

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2007

SUBJECT: Applicability of monitoring-only permits for buildings within a campus-style monitoring loop

OBJECTIVE: To provide clarification regarding the circumstances in a campus-style arrangement when a monitoring-only permit will be required.

BACKGROUND: In the past, whenever a fire alarm contractor pulled a fire alarm permit for a building in a campus-style arrangement and they were not going to perform the monitoring services, an additional and separate monitoring-only permit was required for each building in the campus-style arrangement. This was done in part to ensure that there was compliance from the separate monitoring-only fire alarm contractor relative to: the required monitoring of each respective sprinklered building, the appropriate assessment of inspection fees associated with each respective building's final fire acceptance testing, the accurate reporting of the correct building number and address, the requirement for an alarm monitoring contract for each respective building, ensuring that the fire alarm system complies with current policy & procedure and code requirements when the monitoring of an existing system is taken over by a new contractor, and the accurate delineation of responsibility when two contractors are responsible for the complete installation of the supervisory station fire alarm system.

It was also past policy – for reasons similar to those listed above - to require a monitoring-only permit for each building in a campus-style monitoring loop arrangement when monitoring was being taken over by a new fire alarm contractor.

However, the repercussions realized by the fire alarm contractors and building owners, as well as those realized by the Fire Code Office and Fire Prevention bureaus included increased permitting costs, increased plan review processing times, and an additional drain on personnel and resources to process, review and inspect the additional permits. Furthermore, the financial implications associated with the requirement for additional monitoring-only permits for each building in a campus-style arrangement when taking over the monitoring responsibilities can dissuade building owners from getting out of a monitoring contract with a poorly performing fire alarm monitoring company and securing services with a better performing fire alarm monitoring company.

Based on the feedback from fire alarm contractors, building owners and local fire prevention bureaus, the Fire Code Office has re-evaluated its policies relative to the requirement for monitoring only permits for each new building or each building in a monitoring takeover within a campus-style monitoring loop arrangement.



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POLICY/PROCEDURE: In an effort to provide relief to building owners, fire alarm contractors, fire inspectors and plan reviewers, and to allay the unintended financial consequences associated with previous permitting requirements, it has therefore been established that in a campus-style monitoring loop arrangement, whenever there is a centrally located (main) fire alarm system control panel - where the programming of this “main” panel is arranged to transmit alarm signals to an offsite monitoring station in order to provide fire department notification for multiple buildings served by the Class A monitoring loop – a fire alarm permit shall be required for the installation of the “main” fire alarm system control panel AS WELL AS a separate fire alarm monitoring-only permit. Each subsequent building within the campus-style monitoring loop will then be required to have a separate fire alarm permit, but no monitoring-only permit will be required.

APPLICABILITY:

- The Policy & Procedure shall be applicable to NEW fire alarm permits for a campus-style arrangement whereby the programming of a “main” fire alarm control panel is arranged to transmit alarm signals to an offsite monitoring station in order to provide fire department notification and is housed at the “main” panel which serves multiple buildings in a campus-style monitoring loop (regardless of whether or not satellite panels exist and regardless of whether or not the buildings served by the monitoring loop are classified as Protected Premises or Sprinkler Monitoring Only).
- The Policy & Procedure shall be applicable to “MONITORING TAKEOVER” fire alarm permits for an existing campus-style arrangement whereby the programming of a “main” fire alarm control panel is arranged to transmit alarm signals to an offsite monitoring station in order to provide fire department notification and is housed at a “main” panel which serves multiple buildings in a campus-style monitoring loop (regardless of whether or not satellite panels exist and regardless of whether or not the buildings served by the monitoring loop are classified as Protected Premises or Sprinkler Monitoring Only).

CODE REFERENCES:

(Updated 01/23/09) NFPA 72 (2002 ed.) sections 8.5.2.3, 4.4.6.4 and 4.4.7; NFPA 101 (2006 ed.) section 9.6.4.2; 69A-48.008 F.A.C.; NFPA 1 (2006 ed.) sections 1.12, 13.1.1

ATTACHMENTS:

None.

DISTRIBUTION: Big Corkscrew Island Fire District; East Naples Fire District; Golden Gate Fire District; Immokalee Fire District; Isle of Capri Fire District; North Naples Fire District; Ochopee Fire District; City of Marco Island Fire Department; Building Director, Collier County Community Development; Chief Inspectors, Collier County Community Development; Collier County Community Development Records; Collier Building Industry Association (CBIA); Subscribers.