

Seattle Permits

—part of a multi-departmental series on City services & permitting

Smoke Detector Installation

Updated November 2017

Scope

During the construction of a building, smoke detectors are not initially installed as they may activate from the construction dust. NFPA 72 requires that construction cleanup for all trades be completed prior to the installation of smoke detectors. This is to ensure that smoke detectors are as clean as possible when the alarm system is turned on to protect the building. Clean smoke detectors reduce the incidence of nuisance alarms. This requirement applies to smoke detector installation only and not to any other types of fire protection devices.

Requirements

The Seattle Fire Department began enforcement of this section of NFPA 72 on June 1, 1999. This requirement applies to the smoke detector “head” only. The wiring and smoke detector base may be installed prior to clean up. Smoke detector heads found installed prior to cleanup will need to be replaced or re-certified by the manufacturer.

Do not call for final inspection until the ENTIRE fire alarm system is operational and has been pre-tested in accordance with Chapter 14 of the 2013 edition of NFPA 72. The Record of Completion (in accordance with section 7.5.6 of NFPA 72) will need to be available to the inspector on the final fire alarm system inspection.

Exemptions

In the case of intelligent alarm systems, those capable of measuring the sensitivity of the individual detectors against manufacturer’s specifications, the installation of detectors with temporary dust covers prior to the completion of all construction is allowed.

Proof will be required that all detectors are within their manufacturer’s sensitivity range. This should be in the form of an alarm panel printout showing that the detectors were sensitivity-tested after construction was completed. If the alarm panel printout is not available at the time of the acceptance test, final sign-off of the system by the Fire Inspector may be delayed.

Questions regarding these requirements may be directed to (206) 386-1450.

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