



**NASSAU COUNTY FIRE  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL**  
Nassau County Public Safety Center  
1194 Prospect Avenue  
Westbury, New York 11590  
(516) 573-9900 / nassaucountyny.gov

Chief Fire Marshal

# **FIRE MARSHAL BULLETIN**

March 22, 2017

**To:** NCFM-Licensed (Fire) Alarm System Contractors

**From:** Assistant Chief Fire Marshal – Michael F. Uttaro - *muttaro@nassaucountyny.gov*

**Re:** Low Frequency Alarm Signal Requirements

The **2015 International Fire and Building Codes** now require low frequency signal notification devices in ‘R’ occupancies and in some ‘I’ occupancies to be installed in accordance with **NFPA 72-2013, Section 18.4.5.3**.

These Codes require the use of the low frequency signal in areas intended for sleeping and in areas that might reasonably be used for sleeping. For example, this section requires a low frequency audible signal in a bedroom of an apartment and also in the living room area of an apartment as it might have sleeping occupants.

It is not required to use the low frequency signal in hallways, lobbies, and other tenantless or public spaces. Tenant rooms require use of the low frequency signals, but other spaces that might require audible signals can use any listed audible appliance regardless of the frequency content of the signal being produced.

## **Emergency Communications Systems**

In occupancies where sleeping accommodations are provided and a voice message is intended to communicate information to those who could be asleep, a low-frequency tone that complies with **NFPA 72-2013, Section 18.4.5** shall be used.

Low frequency alarm signals shall comply with the following:

1. The alarm signal shall be a square wave or provide equivalent awakening ability.
2. The wave shall have a fundamental frequency of 520 Hz  $\pm$  10 percent.

3. The minimum sound level at the pillow shall be 75 dBA, or 15 dB above the average ambient sound level, or 5 dB above the maximum sound level having a duration of at least 60 seconds, whichever is greater.

For those with moderately severe to profound hearing loss, visible notification appliances shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of **NFPA 72-2013, Section 18.5.5.7** in the following situations:

1. Where required by governing laws, codes, or standards for people with hearing loss.
2. Where provided voluntarily for those with hearing loss

Tactile notification appliances may be installed in accordance with the requirements of NFPA 72-2103, Section 18.10 if used in addition to audible or visible, or both, notification appliances.