



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
FIRE ENGINEERING AND INVESTIGATIONS**

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Date: August 6, 2025

To: Fire Alarm Advisory Committee

From: Michael Huang, Building Materials Listing Program Coordinator

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

California Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) listing requirements for tamper switches

Recommended Actions:

For discussion only

Background Information:

According to California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 1.5, Section 208(b)(3), fire alarm control unit accessories need not be OSFM listed if the device meets certain electrical isolation requirements. However, per CCR, Title 19, Section 204(d)(2), OSFM listing would be required for these devices if they are “essential to the function of the fire alarm system”.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

There are various devices that meet the electrical isolation requirements in CCR, Title 19, Section 208(b)(3) that the Building Materials Listing Program does not require to be listed. However, some of these devices could be considered essential to the function of the fire alarm system. Some examples of devices that we currently do not require to be listed include: waterflow valves, tamper switches, door closers, door holders, door releasing devices, etc. This discussion will help the BML program determine what exactly is considered “essential”.

Potential Industry Impacts:

While we do already list a lot of these devices, our category list posted on our website currently does not consider these categories to be required to be listed with the OSFM. Officially requiring these categories to be listed would clear up any confusion between manufacturers and authorities having jurisdiction on whether certain devices need to be OSFM listed, or not.

Relevant CCR, Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 1.5 Sections:

204(d)(2): For the purposes of approval and listing, fire alarm systems or devices shall not be construed to include any connected fire alarm or nonfire alarm equipment which is not essential to the function of the fire alarm system provided the fire alarm control unit or device complies with Section 208(b)(3)

208(b)(3) Fire Alarm Prohibitions. When any equipment or systems specified in Section 204(d)(2) is to be connected to any fire alarm control unit or fire alarm device, such control unit or device shall be so designed and arranged that:

- (A) The electrical design of the equipment or systems shall not be integral to the internal circuitry of the fire alarm control unit of the system or device, and
- (B) Such equipment and systems shall be served by a power supply or circuit independent of the power supply or circuit necessary for the function of the control unit or device, and
- (C) Such equipment and systems shall be interconnected to the control unit of the system or device by relays or switching devices which will provide electrical isolation from the system or device to prevent interference or interruption of the normal or intended operation of the fire alarm system or device.