



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

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Date: November 6th, 2024

To: Fire Alarm Advisory Committee

From: Galileo Atalig, Mechanical Engineer of Building Material Listing Program

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:
Manual Fire Alarm Pull Box Listing Issue

Recommended Actions:
Information Only

Background Information:

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) requires all new and existing OSFM listings for manual fire alarm pull boxes to meet the adopted standard, Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) Standard 38, 1999 Edition with additional California Amendments. These California Amendments require American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance as defined in the 2022 California Building Code (CBC), Chapter 35, under UL 38-99. In 2023, OSFM removed a total of 156 noncompliant manual fire alarm pull box models from our OSFM listings and the remaining are ADA compliant per our OSFM approved testing laboratories.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

It was brought to the OSFM's attention that there still may be a few existing OSFM listed manual fire alarm pull boxes that may not be in complete compliance. We are taking a proactive approach by requesting a sample of each one to operate and verify ourselves for ADA compliance. We will soon be requesting manual fire alarm pull box manufacturers to send all their OSFM listed models for the OSFM to review. If the actuation mechanism is identical across the varying model series, a minimum of one representative model will be acceptable. After our physical examination, we will be asking the original testing laboratories to verify any questionable manual fire alarm pull boxes. Any models that are not in compliance according to the approving testing laboratory will be removed from our OSFM listings.

Potential Industry Impacts:

Manufacturers will be responsible for the costs of manufacturing and shipping the requested manual fire alarm pull boxes. Upon re-examination by our approved testing laboratories, if it is determined that certain models do not meet compliance to UL 38, 1999 Edition with additional California Amendments, then we will remove non-compliant models from our OSFM list.