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Date: November 6th, 2024

To: Fire Alarm Advisory Committee

From: Michael Huang, Building Materials Listing Program Coordinator

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

Code Interpretation Request regarding 24-hour battery testing for fire alarm systems discussion

Recommended Actions:

For discussion and feedback only.

Background Information:

The Code Interpretation Committee is looking for feedback from the Fire Alarm Advisory Committee on a question they received regarding annual testing of batteries in fire alarm systems. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 72, 14.4.3.2(8), defines the method of testing for secondary battery supplies and NFPA 72, 10.6.7 outlines the requirements of a secondary battery supply.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

The question has to do with annual maintenance testing for 24-hour battery capability, and if testing needs to be a full 24-hour standby test. NFPA 72, 14.4.3.2(8) does not make it clear if a full 24-hour standby test is required.

Potential Industry Impacts:

Laying out the methods required for annual testing of fire alarm system batteries will make it clear to local inspectors and authorities having jurisdiction when approving fire alarm systems.