



CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal Information Bulletin 22-001

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(Previous IB dated October 15, 2007)

Requirement for listing under UL 38 Manually Actuated Signaling Boxes 1999 Edition, with California Amendments

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has adopted the 1999 Edition of UL 38, Manually Actuated Signaling Boxes for Use with Fire Protective Signaling Systems, with California Amendments. This requirement has been in effect since January 01, 2008.

Section 14.1.5 of UL 38 is amended as follows:

A signaling box having a glass panel, disc, rod, or similar part that must be broken to operate it for a signal or for access to its actuating means shall satisfactorily complete five part-breaking operations using the means provided with the box, without jamming of the mechanism or other interference by broken particles. It shall be practicable to remove and replace the broken parts. *A signaling box shall not have a glass panel, disc, rod, or similar part requiring a striking action by grasping a tool to operate it for a signal. The force required to activate controls shall be no greater than 5 pounds (22 N) of force.*

Appendix B, Section 14.1.5 to UL 38 is added to read as follows:

14.1.5 Operation. *Controls and operating mechanisms shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist.*

Since January 1, 2008, all new listing applications for fire alarm boxes are required to meet UL 38, 1999 Edition, with California Amendments. Existing products listed by OSFM that do not comply with UL 38, 1999 Edition, with California Amendments, are required to submit a test report indicating compliance and a Technical Revision application prior to the end of the next renewal cycle of June 30, 2023, to maintain their listing.

Should you have any questions regarding this Information Bulletin, please contact the Building Materials Listing (BML) Program at bml.program@fire.ca.gov