



## California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	November 29, 2017	Interpretation	17-003
Topic	Automatic Fire Alarm System Defined		
Code Section(s)	2016 CBC §907.2.1 & 907.2.2.2		
Requested by	Jacob Irion Integrated Electronics		
Date Received	November 21, 2016		

The CBC & CFC codes often make references to requirements for an "Automatic Fire Alarm System", such as code sections 907.2.1 & 907.2.2.2 requiring manual or automatic fire alarm systems for educational buildings. However, neither the CBC nor CFC codes provides a definition for the "Automatic Fire Alarm System".

### **Question 1:**

Does a fire alarm system which activates notification appliances throughout a building upon sprinkler waterflow and that calls out to a Central Station upon activation of the sprinkler system qualify as an "Automatic Fire Alarm System"?

**NO.**

The sprinkler system monitored by a sprinkler monitoring panel only does not constitute an automatic fire alarm system per CBC 2016 907.2.3.6.

### **Question 2:**

"Automatic Fire Alarm System" intended to mean "Automatic Smoke Detection System" (a term which is used in other occupancy group requirements, such as Group E)?

**YES.**

### **Question 3:**

If they are intended to be one in the same, why do the two different terms exist within the same code documents?

The term "automatic fire alarm system" is derived from the text language in the Education Code (example section 17074.50) and the Health and Safety Code (example section 13131.5). The definition in the California Code of Regulations (Title 24) intended to expand on the general language of the law as adopted the definition of AUTOMATIC SMOKE DETECTION SYSTEM. A fire alarm system that has initiation devices that utilize smoke detectors for protection of an area such as a room or space with detectors to provide early warning of fire.