



CAL FIRE - OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Code Interpretation 26-05

Issued: July 13, 2026

Existing Building Fire Alarm Control Unit ADA Required Notification

OVERVIEW

Edition: 2025 Title 24 California Building Standards (January 1, 2026 Errata)
Code: Part 2 California Building Code (CBC) and Part 9 California Fire Code (CFC)
Section(s): CBC Section 907 and CFC Section 907
Requested By: Chris Shimaoka, Engineering Manager, National Fail-Safe
Date Received: December 9, 2025

QUESTION #1

When replacing a fire alarm control unit in an existing building due to obsolescence or the addition of ADA required notification appliances, is the new control unit required to be only code compliant and listed compatible with other existing components such as smoke detectors, heat detectors, etc.?

ANSWER #1

Yes. It is the intent that only the replacement FACU, devices, and/or appliances are required to comply with the current edition of the code and standard.

Note: However, the existing fire alarm system shall conform to the codes and standards in effect at the time the fire alarm system was originally installed.

The authority having jurisdiction shall be consulted prior to the replacement of any fire alarm control unit or system modification, every building is considered on a case by case basis. Complete documentation shall be provided in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 72 - National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code, California Fire Code, and local requirements.

QUESTION #2

Are notification appliances to be made code compliant throughout as for new buildings?

ANSWER #2

No. See note above.