



CAL FIRE - OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Code Interpretation 25-03

Issued: March 24, 2025

Fire Alarm-Secondary Power Acceptance Testing

OVERVIEW

Edition: 2022 CCR Title 24, California Building Standards (July 2024 Supplement)
Code: Part 9, California Fire Code, and NFPA 72
Section(s): (CFC) 907.7, and 14.4, Table 14.4.3.2 Item 8, 10.6.7.2 (NFPA 72)
Requested By: Steve Schwartz, RMW/Construction Manager, CFP Fire Protection Inc.
Date Received: July 30, 2024

QUESTION

During an acceptance or annual test of a fire alarm system, is 24 hour battery testing required in accordance with NFPA 72 (2022) Chapter 14, table 14.4.3.2, subsection 8?

ANSWER

No, NFPA 72 does not require that power be disconnected from the fire alarm system for a full 24 hours for this battery test.

Initial Acceptance and Annual Testing:

The required battery capacity for a secondary power supply is calculated by determining quiescent (standby) and alarm loads for the system. The manufacturer provides the current draw for a fire alarm system component in both the quiescent and alarm states. System documentation should include battery calculations that show the required capacity of any batteries providing the secondary power supply.

[2022 NFPA 72- 10.6.7.2.1](#)

The secondary power supply for the protected premises system shall have sufficient capacity to operate the system under quiescent load (system operating in a nonalarm condition) for a minimum of 24 hours.

[2022 NFPA 72, 10.6.7.2.2](#)

At the end of the period in 10.6.7.2.1, the secondary power supply shall be capable of operating all alarm notification appliances used for evacuation or to direct aid to the location of an emergency for 5 minutes, unless otherwise permitted or required by 10.6.7.2.4.

[2022 CFC 108.2 Inspections](#)

The fire code official is authorized to conduct such inspections as are deemed necessary to determine the extent of compliance... .