

Memo

To: Fire Alarm Installers, Design Teams, Whom it may concern
From: Fire Prevention
CC: Inspectional Services Department
Date: 06/06/11 – amended 7/14/21
Re: Fire-fighter's Smoke Control Panel Requirements

Effective immediately. Please refer to the Massachusetts State Building Code (780 CMR, 9th Edition – 2015 IBC), Section 909, for specific requirements concerning fire-fighter's smoke control panels (applicable reference standards apply as well).

In order to provide uniformity within the City of Boston for buildings with fire-fighter's smoke control panels and for required smoke control systems in accordance with 780 CMR, the Boston Fire Department (BFD) requires schematic firefighter's smoke control panel drawings to be submitted for all new and/or upgraded buildings. This will apply to all new and/or upgraded high rises, atriums, and other buildings that require smoke control.

A graphic annunciator is a vital component of the smoke control panel that provides clear indication of the status and operation of the dampers and smoke control fans for responding fire department personnel.

The graphic annunciator is to be illustrated in a schematic diagram form of the building in elevation view showing the smoke control features, components, and equipment within or on the building and the floors that they interact with. The building address shall be on the panel. Panels are to provide a clear indication (via color-coded if possible) of the direction of airflow and the relationship of the components displayed. Status indication shall be provided for all smoke control equipment, annunciated by fan and zone, by pilot lamp type indicators. The lamp and H-O-A control switch (knob-type) should be next to the component or equipment it serves as follows:

Fans, dampers and other operating equipment in their normal status - WHITE.

Fans, dampers and other operating equipment in their off or closed status – RED.

Fans, Dampers and other operating equipment in their on or open status - GREEN.

Fans, dampers and other operating equipment in a fault status – YELLOW/AMBER.

Duct smoke detectors – BLUE.

A plan showing the layout of the annunciator configuration of the firefighter's smoke control panel with acceptance stamp by the responsible design professional, along with operating instructions and sequence of operation, should be submitted to the BFD for review with the BFD fire alarm permit application. Should you have any questions please contact the Boston Fire Department Fire Protection Engineers at 617-343-2043.