



Manitoba Fire Code - MR 155/2011

Smoke Detector Sensitivity Testing

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OFC 14—001

This bulletin is to inform stakeholders of an alternative solution that has been endorsed by the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) for meeting the requirements of sentence 1) of Article 6.3.1.2 of the Manitoba Fire Code, which reads as follows:

6.3.1.2 Inspection and Testing

1) Fire alarm systems shall be inspected and tested in conformance with CAN/ULC-S536, "Inspection and Testing of Fire Alarm Systems."

CAN/ULC-S536 specifies that annual testing of smoke detectors must include sensitivity testing to ensure that the detector is within its rated operating range. This standard also specifies the acceptable methods of determining smoke detector sensitivity:

5.7.4.1.6 Acceptable methods of determining smoke detector sensitivity are:

- A. Manufacturer's recommended test instrument, equipment, or method;
- B. Installed control units or transponders designed to test the sensitivity of individual smoke detectors; or
- C. Calibrated instruments that provide the operation as described in CAN/ULC-S529, Standard for Smoke Detectors for Fire Alarm Systems, for the purpose of testing smoke detector sensitivity.

As an alternative solution to options A, B, and C above, the OFC considers the use of a UL listed smoke detector sensitivity instrument to be an acceptable method of determining smoke detector sensitivity.

Rationale

Fire alarm maintenance companies often service fire alarm systems made by different manufacturers. Test instruments/equipment recommended by the various manufacturers may be difficult to obtain.

UL listed instruments will allow for a range of universal test instruments to be used. These universal testers can be configured to test the rated operating range of most manufacturer's detectors, thereby reducing the need to have multiple test instruments.

Scope

This bulletin **applies to premises for which the OFC is the authority having jurisdiction** for purposes of enforcement of the *Manitoba Fire Code*. Since local municipalities are responsible for the enforcement of the *Manitoba Fire Code* in their jurisdictions, the OFC is recommending the adoption of this alternative solution to promote consistency across Manitoba. Persons conducting fire alarm testing should verify the adoption of this alternative solution with the authority having jurisdiction prior to commencing work.