

THIS ORDINANCE ONLY AFFECTS EXISTING FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS. IF YOU RECEIVED A NOTICE BY MAIL AND YOU DO NOT CURRENTLY HAVE A FIRE ALARM INSTALLED IN YOUR BUILDING, YOU MAY DISREGARD THE NOTICE.

Dear Building Owner and/or Business Owner:

This letter is to notify you of a change in the Code of Miami-Dade County, adding Sections 14-66 and 14-67 which will affect occupancies with existing fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems. The code requires that you obtain a contract for the maintenance of your fire alarm and suppression systems in existing buildings by September 14, 2009.

Primarily, the code amendment is concerned about assuring the reliability of fire alarm systems. This reliability was a major concern in the adoption of the ordinance because fire alarms play a major part in providing notice of a fire in a building and giving sufficient time for building occupants to escape before the fire becomes dangerous. A well maintained system should also eliminate many false alarms and alleviate the danger of apathy by the building occupants when the alarm sounds.

The amendment adds requirements to obtain some form of maintenance contract with a licensed fire alarm contractor for fire alarms and fire sprinkler systems to be in effect at all times, and for the contract to include having the alarm service company send a runner (technician) to respond to alarms within 2 hours. The runner would be able to reset fire alarm systems and handle minor repairs to get the system operational again as soon as possible.

Maintenance of the systems was already required under fire code as well as evacuation of the building or instituting a fire watch following 4 hours without service.

It is believed that costs for contractual pre-negotiated services will be lower than those for uncontracted services, so it is anticipated that the contracts will result in lower costs overall to the building and business owners and will eliminate many unexpected high cost repairs and fire watch expenses.

Contract Types Currently Known to Be Available

Following a survey of approximately 100 alarm contractors within our jurisdiction, we have determined that these companies offer a variety of contracting options that will meet the requirements of this ordinance. Listed below are some typical contract types but may not be representative of all options available. The alarm users are recommended to contact their alarm service company to discuss their best options.

The ordinance is not intended to require or even to encourage alarm users to obtain a full-service contract. The Fire Department will accept the minimum contract agreement that contains some method for maintenance and contains provisions for the runner service to perform the services indicated in the ordinance.

- Basic Cost per Service – Contract with service provided on a set fee schedule for the various services they offer, but only scheduled unless contacted and requested by the alarm user. This contract must include a runner service to respond within 2 hours to system activation or trouble signals. These contracts are typically no cost until and unless the service is used.

- Full service – Turnkey service contract with the highest level of dependability and reliability, including all required scheduled maintenance and testing, response for repairs, and runner service to respond within 2 hours to system activation or trouble signals. Labor is typically included in the scheduled service agreement. The contractor may also work with you to identify and correct problem areas that are causing malfunctions. For a typical three-story apartment with five apartments per floor or a retail business, this option may cost approximately \$4,800 per year. Additional service and parts may be an additional cost.

Process to Comply

The maintenance contract with the licensed fire alarm contractor needs to include:

- Annual inspection report (already code requirement)
- Be on call to provide repairs when necessary
- Available to respond within two hours to reset the system and to provide minor repairs when the system is activated
- Contractor is added to emergency contact information posted near alarm panel

Alarm users (building or business owners) are encouraged to obtain the contracts and to come into compliance as soon as possible to be sure that they are able to secure the services in a timely manner and to better protect the occupants of their buildings. It is also recommended that you shop for quotes from several licensed fire alarm contractors to assure that you obtain competitive pricing.

The timeframes in this ordinance pertain only to this ordinance: other already existing requirements will be enforced with no change in procedure or timeframes. For instance, evacuation of the building or fire watch will still be required when a fire alarm or fire sprinkler system is down for more than four hours as was already required.

During annual inspections, if the contracts are not already in place, fire inspectors will notify you of the requirement. You will need to be in compliance by the final deadline of September 14, 2009. If you need additional time, you will need to file a written request for an extension to the Fire Marshal.

**Fire Marshal
Fire Prevention Division
Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department
9300 NW 41 Street, Doral, Florida 33178**

Any request for an extension will need to also include the reason for the extension, a timeframe in which you believe that you can be in compliance (a maximum of 18 months).

Beginning on the September 14, 2009 deadline, if you have not received written approval from the Fire Marshal for an extension of time, the Code Compliance Officer will begin enforcement procedures. So, be sure to submit any extension requests at least one month before that deadline.

Failure to comply or obtain an additional extension within 18 months will result in citations being issued and all enforcement actions being taken. The maximum amount of time that the occupant may have to comply is 3 years (36 months) from the effective date of March 14, 2008 if approved by the fire marshal of the jurisdiction.

These requirements are already in place for new alarm systems, so there is no change as a result of the code amendment for new systems.

We hope that this advance notice will be useful to you and we look forward to working with you to increase the reliability of your vital systems.

Very truly yours,

Chief Manny C. Mena, Fire Marshal
Fire Prevention Division



Frequently Asked Questions Sections 14-66 and 14-67 Code of Miami-Dade County

Note: Wherever possible, the pertinent code section follows the answer to the question so that the reader may easily refer to the specific code. Any notices, letters, or FAQ's are not the code and are included as a quick reference for your convenience. Please see the specific code section for the definitive answer to your question.

What is the purpose of the new fire alarm ordinance?

Sections 14-66 and 14-67 are added to the Code to require fire alarm and fire sprinkler monitoring systems to have maintenance agreements and licensed technicians to respond to malfunctions and alarm conditions. This ordinance will require owners of commercial buildings, where alarm or sprinkler systems are required, to establish a contract with a licensed alarm contractor to provide maintenance and response by a qualified technician.

The purpose of the ordinance is to enhance the reliability of critical life safety systems, primarily fire alarm and fire sprinkler monitoring systems, by increasing maintenance and providing a runner service to reset and repair non-functional systems. Improving reliability of life safety systems will significantly reduce the number and length of required fire watch patrols, reduce the costs associated with major repairs, reduce the number of nuisance alarms (false alarms) and fines for multiple false alarms.

When was the ordinance adopted?

The ordinance was adopted on March 4, 2008 and effective March 14, 2008.

When must existing systems comply?

The existing fire alarm systems must comply no later than September 14, 2009. § 14-66 (4) (a)

What systems are affected by the Fire Alarm Ordinance?

All fire alarm systems, except one and two family dwellings fire alarm systems, new and existing, whether they are or are not monitored (supervised). § 14-66 (2)

- protected premises (local) fire alarm systems
- remote supervising station fire alarm systems

- central station fire alarm systems, and proprietary supervising station fire alarm systems
- fire alarm systems that only monitor fire suppression systems such as sprinklers and fire pumps
- Non-required or elective monitoring of fire alarm systems must comply with the ordinance. While the ordinance affects all of the above mentioned systems not all of the provisions apply in the same way to every system

See also Definitions § 14-66 (3)

What must the owner of a fire alarm system do to comply?

Contract with a licensed fire alarm service company for a service contract that includes all required maintenance and testing and includes runner service (technician) available to respond 24/7. § 14-66 (4) (a)

Post the following information near the main entrance or other location approved by the Fire Department: (1) the name of an individual or alarm company able and authorized to enter the premises and deactivate the alarm; (2) emergency telephone numbers by which those individuals can be reached at all times; and (3) the name and address of the alarm user. § 14-10 (4) or 14-66 (4) (b)

Provide the service company with a key or other means of accessing the fire alarm control panel at any time. § 14-66 (4) (c)

Post the certificate or placard at the main fire alarm control panel for Central Station Service fire alarm systems. § 14-66 (4) (b)

Maintain any sprinkler or fire suppression systems in accordance with NFPA 25. § 14-66 (5) and § 14-67 (4)

Are all fire alarm systems required to be monitored?

No, monitoring is required for some occupancies by the Florida Fire Prevention Code and other provisions of the Code, but this ordinance does not order monitoring by itself.

How are sprinkler systems affected?

All new sprinkler systems must be monitored by a fire alarm even if the Florida Fire Prevention Code does not require monitoring. § 14-67 (3)

How are fire suppression systems affected?

All fire suppression systems required to be monitored by the Florida Fire Prevention Code or another code or standard, and all fire suppression systems electing to be monitored are subject to the fire alarm provisions of the ordinance. § 14-67 (4)

Does the ordinance require existing fire sprinkler systems and fire suppression systems to be monitored?

No, existing systems can remain unmonitored if permitted by code.

Does the ordinance require all fire alarm systems to have service contracts and runner service?

Yes, all systems require service contracts and runner service even if they are not monitored. Existing systems must have a service contract and runner service by September 14, 2009. § 14-66 (4)

Does the ordinance require all fire sprinkler and fire suppression systems to have service contracts and runner service?

No, only fire alarms require service contracts and runner service. The maintenance and testing of fire sprinkler and fire suppression systems is covered in NFPA 25, *Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems*. §14-67 (4)

How will the alarm company know if they need to dispatch a runner to a local system that is not monitored?

The ordinance requires specific contact information to be posted at the main entrance of the building or in another location as approved by the fire department. This provides the occupants of the building and any responding emergency personnel with the contact information of the alarm servicing company. A building occupant, property manager or the fire department will have to notify the alarm servicing company on any alarm, trouble or supervisory signals and the alarm servicing company will have to respond in the appropriate time.

Will remote supervising fire alarm systems be required to dispatch the runner service?

Yes, the remote supervising station must be receiving alarm, trouble, and supervisory signals in order to notify the fire alarm servicing company so that they can dispatch a runner. Many remote supervising stations do not receive or report trouble and supervisory signals to anyone. The systems and the monitoring contracts will have to be revised to allow these functions to take place and to require the fire alarm service company to be contacted.

How fast must the alarm servicing company respond?

The runner must arrive at the property within 2 hours for all alarm and supervisory signals and within 4 hours on all trouble signals. Failure to respond within these required times could result in fines for the building owner or occupants. Runner service shall be available at all hours of the day and night, seven days a week (24/7) including holidays. § 14-66 (4) (a)

How will the runner gain access to the fire alarm control panel?

Section 4 c) of the ordinance requires that the runner will have access to the fire alarm control panel at all times by a key or other means. Consult with the local Fire Department for other approved options. § 14-66 (4) (c)

Are all fire alarm systems required to be central station service?

No, only new monitored fire alarm systems are required to be central station service systems. This requirement also applies to new fire alarm systems which are electively (not required by code) being monitored. § 14-66 (9)

Are all fire alarm systems required to be certificated or placarded?

No, only central station fire alarm systems and proprietary supervising station fire alarm systems must have a certificate or placard posted at the fire alarm control panel. This placard or certificate is in addition to the required posting at the main entrance. Existing proprietary supervising station systems must be certificated or placarded by September 14, 2009. § 14-66 (9)

Will existing monitored fire alarm systems be required to be central station systems?

No, not unless they meet the criteria in § 14-66 (10) of the ordinance for systems that have been upgraded, repaired, or renovated or they meet the criteria in § 14-66 (12) of the ordinance for inoperable systems or excessive false alarms. The addition of power boosters or NAC panels to add notification devices will not necessarily trigger an upgrade requiring central stations service. However, replacement of the fire alarm control panel could require a complete upgrade of the system which would then have to be central station service.

Do sprinkler systems and fire suppression systems require a certificate or placard?

No, only fire alarm systems that are central station systems or proprietary supervising station systems require the certificate or placard. § 14-67 (3) and (4)

Must the monitoring company which receives the fire alarm signals be listed? Yes, the ordinance requires that all supervising stations shall be listed by a third party verification organization acceptable to the Authority Having Jurisdiction (Fire Department). This includes all remote supervising stations, central stations and proprietary supervising stations located anywhere in the country. Existing supervising stations monitoring buildings in the geographical area of Miami-Dade County must comply by September 14, 2009.

Must all fire alarm systems have the fire alarm control panel or a remote annunciator at the main entrance? Yes, all protected premises shall be required to have the fire alarm control unit or a remote annunciator located in the building lobby near the main entrance, or, if there is no main entrance or lobby, in a common area where the fire alarm control panel or remote annunciator can be seen and heard by the occupants of the building. The Fire Department can grant an exception to this requirement for existing remote supervising station fire alarm systems. § 14-66 (7)

Is there a minimum audibility level for existing fire alarm systems? Yes, the required audibility level of a fire alarm system is dictated by NFPA 72 in the edition under which it was installed as new. Existing systems installed prior to the adoption of the 2002 edition of NFPA 72, that do not meet the minimum sound pressure levels contained in section 6 of the ordinance, may be required to upgrade to meet the required sound pressure levels contained in the ordinance at the discretion of the local A.H.J.

Sec. 14-66. Fire alarms.

- (1) *Purpose.* The purpose of this section is to seek to obtain proper installation, operation, maintenance, testing, and supervision of fire alarm systems and to seek to obtain compliance with Chapter 633, Florida Statutes, the Florida Fire Prevention Code, the Florida Administrative Code Rule 69A-48 and Rule 69A-60, NFPA 72 (2002 Edition) National Fire Alarm Code, NFPA 13 (2002 Edition) Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems and this section.
- (2) *Scope of regulation.* The provisions of this section shall apply to all fire alarm systems, except one- and two-family dwelling unit fire alarm systems, within the geographical area of Miami-Dade County.
- (3) *Definitions applicable to Section 14-66 and Section 14-67 of this Code.*
 - (a) *Alarm Signal.* A signal indicating an emergency that requires immediate action including, but not limited to, a signal indicative of fire.
 - (b) *Annunciator.* A unit containing one or more indicator lamps, alphanumeric displays, or other equivalent means in which each indication provides status information about a circuit, condition, or location.
 - (c) *Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).* The chief fire official responsible for approving equipment, materials, an installation, or a procedure.
 - (d) *Central Station.* A supervising station that is listed for central station service.
 - (e) *Central Station Fire Alarm System.* A system or group of systems in which the operations of circuits and devices are transmitted automatically to, recorded in, maintained by, and supervised from a listed central station that has competent and experienced servers and operators who, upon receipt of a signal, take such action as required by this Code. Such service is to be controlled and operated by a person, firm, or corporation whose business is the furnishing, maintaining, or monitoring of supervised fire alarm systems.
 - (f) *Central Station Service.* The use of a system or a group of systems in which the operations of circuits and devices at a protected property are signaled to, recorded in, and supervised from a listed central station that has competent and experienced operators who, upon receipt of a signal, take such action as required by this Code. Related activities at the protected property, such as equipment installation, inspection, testing, maintenance, and runner service, are the responsibility of the central station or a listed fire alarm service local company.
 - (g) *Certificate (Certificated).* Posted verification of a systematic program that uses randomly selected follow-up inspections of the certificated systems installed under the program that allows the listing organization to verify that a fire alarm system complies with all the requirements of NFPA 72 (2002 Edition) National Fire Alarm Code. A system installed under such a program is identified by the issuance of a certificate and is designated as a certificated system.
 - (h) *Combination System.* A fire alarm system in which components are used, in whole or in part, in common with a non-fire signaling system.
 - (i) *Fire Department Notification.* The immediate and automatic notification of the local fire jurisdiction by electronic means in accordance with NFPA 72 (2002 Edition) National Fire Alarm Code, that a fire alarm signal has been reported to the fire alarm system.
 - (j) *Evacuation Signal.* A distinctive signal intended to be recognized by the occupants as requiring evacuation of the building or zone.
 - (k) *Fire Alarm Control Unit (Fire Alarm Control Panel).* A system component that receives inputs from automatic and manual fire alarm devices and might supply power to detection devices and to a transponder(s) or off-premises transmitter(s). The control unit might also

provide transfer of power to the notification appliances and transfer of condition to relays or devices connected to the control unit. The fire alarm control unit can be a local fire alarm control unit or a master control unit.

(l) *Fire Alarm Signal*. A signal initiated by a fire alarm-initiating device such as a manual fire alarm box, automatic fire detector, water flow switch, or other device in which activation is indicative of the presence of a fire or a fire signature.

(m) *Fire Alarm System*. A system or portion of a combination system that consists of components and circuits arranged to monitor and annunciate the status of fire alarm or supervisory signal-initiating devices and to initiate the appropriate response to those signals.

(n) *Listed*. Equipment, materials, or services included in a list published by an organization that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with evaluation of products or services, that maintains periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials or periodic evaluation of services, and whose listing states that either the equipment, material, or service meets appropriate designated standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.

(o) *Master Control Unit (Panel)*. A control unit that serves the protected premises or portion of the protected premises as a local control unit and accepts inputs from other fire alarm control units.

(p) *Nuisance Alarm*. Any alarm caused by mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation, or lack of proper maintenance, or any alarm activated by a cause that cannot be determined.

(q) *Placard (Placarded)*. A means to signify that the fire alarm system of a particular facility is receiving central station service in accordance with NFPA 72 (2002 Edition) National Fire Alarm Code by a listed central station or listed fire alarm service-local company that is part of a systematic follow-up program under the control of an independent third-party listing organization or a nationally recognized testing laboratory.

(r) *Proprietary Supervising Station*. A location to which alarm or supervisory signaling devices on proprietary fire alarm systems are connected and where personnel are in attendance at all times to supervise operation and investigate all signals.

(s) *Proprietary Supervising Station Fire Alarm System*. An installation of fire alarm systems that serves contiguous and noncontiguous properties, under one ownership, from a proprietary supervising station located at the protected property, or at one of multiple non-contiguous protected properties, at which trained, competent personnel are in constant attendance.

(t) *Protected Premises*. The physical location protected by a fire alarm system.

(u) *Protected Premises (Local) Fire Alarm System*. A protected premises system that sounds an alarm at the protected premises as the result of the manual operation of a fire alarm box or the operation of protection equipment or systems including, but not limited to, water flowing in a sprinkler system, the discharge of carbon dioxide, the detection of smoke, or the detection of heat.

(v) *Remote Supervising Station Fire Alarm System*. A system installed in accordance with this Code to transmit alarm, supervisory, and trouble signals from one or more protected premises to a remote location where appropriate action is taken.

(w) *Runner*. A fire alarm service technician who is qualified to inspect, test and maintain fire alarm systems in accordance with NFPA 72 (2002 Edition) National Fire Alarm Code, who is licensed pursuant to Chapter 489 Part II, Florida Statutes, and who is available at all times to respond to signals at a protected premises.

(x) *Runner Service*. The service provided by a runner at the protected premises, including resetting and silencing of all equipment transmitting fire alarm or supervisory signals to an off-premises location and the restoration or repair of the fire alarm system.

(y) *Signal*. A status indication communicated by electrical or other means.

(z) *Sprinkler system*. For fire protection purposes, an integrated system of underground and overhead piping designed in accordance with fire protection engineering standards. The installation includes one or more automatic water supplies. The portion of the sprinkler system aboveground is a network of specially sized or hydraulically designed piping installed in a building, structure, or area, generally overhead, and to which sprinklers are attached in a systematic pattern. The valve controlling each system riser is located in the system riser or its supply piping. Each sprinkler system riser includes a device for actuating an alarm when the system is in operation. The system is usually activated by heat from a fire and discharges water over the fire area.

(aa) *Supervision*. The monitoring of supervisory signals by qualified personnel from an approved monitoring facility in compliance with NFPA 72 (2002 Edition) National Fire Alarm Code.

(bb) *Supervisory Signal*. A signal indicating the need for action in connection with the supervision of guard tours, the fire suppression systems or equipment, or the maintenance features of related systems.

(cc) *Supervising Station*. A facility that receives signals and at which personnel are in attendance at all times to respond to these signals.

(dd) *Supervisory Service*. The service required to monitor performance of guard tours and the operative condition of fixed suppression systems or other systems for the protection of life and property.

(ee) *Third-Party Verification Organization*. An independent organization providing published standards for the operation and administration of a listed central station service program that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and that operates in accordance with NFPA 72 (2002 Edition) National Fire Alarm Code in providing a system for the verification and listing of fire alarm systems for central station service and which provides a certificate or placard indicating compliance.

(ff) *Trouble Signal*. A signal initiated by the fire alarm system or device indicative of a fault in a monitored circuit or component.

(4) *Runner Service and Service Contracts*. All fire alarm systems shall be required to have in effect at all times a service contract with a licensed fire alarm service contractor, a listed fire alarm service-local company or a listed central station to provide all maintenance, service and testing as required by this Code.

(a) The service contract shall include a provision for runner service available to respond to the protected premises at any and all times within two (2) hours of notification of the runner service of any alarm or supervisory signal, and within four (4) hours of notification of any trouble signal. Existing fire alarm systems shall comply with Section 14-66(4) of this Code not later than five hundred forty-five (545) days after the effective date of this ordinance. The authority having jurisdiction shall have the authority to extend the time for compliance with Section 14-66(4) of this Code for existing fire alarm systems to not later than one thousand ninety-five (1,095) days after the effective date of this ordinance if the authority having jurisdiction determines that compliance within five hundred forty-five (545) days is not reasonable under all the facts and circumstances.

1. The runner shall restore the fire alarm system to complete working order.

2. In the event that the runner cannot restore the fire alarm system to complete working order, the building, structure, or occupancy may be subject to certain

working order, the building, structure, or occupancy may be subject to certain limitations, conditions, and restrictions, including fire watch requirements, as determined by the authority having jurisdiction.

(b) Posting requirements. A fire alarm user shall conspicuously post at the main entrance to the alarm user's premises a notice stating: (1) the name of an individual or alarm company able and authorized to enter the premises and deactivate the alarm; (2) emergency telephone numbers by which those individuals can be reached at all times; and (3) the name and address of the alarm user. The information must be kept current and failure to update this information within forty-eight (48) hours of any change constitutes a violation of this section.

(c) The runner at all times shall be provided with a key or other means of accessing the fire alarm control panel at any time.

(d) The licensed fire alarm service contractor, listed fire alarm service-local company or listed central station shall provide to the authority having jurisdiction written notification in such form and manner as approved by the authority having jurisdiction not less than thirty (30) days prior to the termination, cancellation, or expiration of the service contract and shall not terminate the services required by the contract for any reason until thirty (30) days after said notification has been received by the authority having jurisdiction.

(5) *Serviceability*. All fire alarm systems shall be maintained fully functional at all times and all deficiencies shall be reported to the authority having jurisdiction in writing in accordance with Florida Administrative Code Rule 69A-48, and shall be repaired not later than four (4) hours after the fire alarm system is out of service or not later than a time determined by the authority having jurisdiction.

(6) *Evacuation Signals*. All fire alarm systems providing evacuation signals shall provide audible notification signals at the sound pressure levels required in NFPA 72 (2002 Edition) National Fire Alarm Code.

(a) Existing fire alarm systems not meeting a minimum sound pressure level of at least 15 dBA above the average ambient sound level, or 5 dBA above the maximum sound level having a duration of at least sixty seconds, whichever is greater, measured 1.5 meters above the floor in the occupiable area, using the A-weighted scale (dBA), may be required by the authority having jurisdiction to upgrade the audibility of the fire alarm system to meet all of the requirements set forth in NFPA 72 (2002 Edition) National Fire Alarm Code. The minimum sound level in sleeping rooms or areas with all intervening barriers closed shall be 70 dBA. Fire alarm systems not meeting the 70 dBA standard may be required by the authority having jurisdiction to upgrade the audibility of the system to meet the requirements set forth in NFPA 72 (2002 Edition) National Fire Alarm Code.

(b) If the authority having jurisdiction reasonably believes that an existing fire alarm system does not provide adequate sound pressure levels to accomplish evacuation notification then the authority having jurisdiction may, in the discretion of the authority having jurisdiction, require that the user of the existing fire alarm system provide to the authority having jurisdiction a signed, written report in such form and manner as approved by the authority having jurisdiction from a fire alarm contractor licensed to service fire alarm systems in Miami-Dade County setting forth the sound pressure levels (dBA) throughout the building. The fire alarm system user shall provide the signed, written report to the authority having jurisdiction not later than sixty (60) days after receipt of written notification from the authority having jurisdiction to provide the signed written report.

(7) *Annunciators and Fire Alarm Control Units*. All protected premises shall be required to have the fire alarm control unit or a remote annunciator located in the building lobby near the main entrance, or, if there is no main entrance or lobby, in a common area where the fire alarm control unit or remote annunciator can be seen and heard by the occupants of the building, structure, or occupancy, or shall be located in another location approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

(a) Existing remote supervising station fire alarm systems which are otherwise in compliance with this section may be exempted from the provisions of Section 14-66(7) of this Code by the authority having jurisdiction when it is determined by the authority having jurisdiction that a reasonable degree of safety is provided without the addition of a remote annunciator.

(8) *Supervising Stations.* All supervising stations shall be listed by a third-party verification organization acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

(9) *New Installations.* All new fire alarm systems and all new sprinkler systems with supervision or emergency forces notification shall meet the requirements for central station service or proprietary supervising station fire alarm systems and shall be either a certificated or placarded central station fire alarm system as set forth in NFPA 72 (2002 Edition) National Fire Alarm Code or a listed proprietary supervising fire alarm system.

(a) Verification of compliance with the requirements of this section with respect to the installation of new fire alarm systems, as implemented in accordance with the applicable code(s), specifications, or other criteria applicable to the specific installation, shall be certified by a third-party verification organization acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and shall be evidenced by a certificate or placard.

(b) The user of all new fire alarm systems and new sprinkler systems with supervision or emergency forces notification shall at all times conspicuously post a certificate or a placard on or within thirty-six (36) inches of the fire alarm control unit, as set forth in NFPA 72 (2002 Edition) National Fire Alarm Code.

(10) *Upgrades, Renovation, Additions, Repairs, or Modernization.* Any upgrade, renovation, addition, repair, or modernization of any existing fire alarm system which includes the replacement of the master control unit with anything other than the exact make and model as the existing master control unit or which includes the addition of a fire alarm control panel which will provide or replace any of the functions of the existing master control unit, except notification, shall be required to have the complete fire alarm system in compliance with all the requirements for new installations. If an upgrade, renovation, addition, repair, or modernization includes greater than one-half of the entire fire alarm system, then the entire fire alarm system shall be required to be in compliance with Section 14-66 (9) of this Code.

(11) *Proprietary Supervising Station Fire Alarm Systems.*

(a) All proprietary supervising station fire alarm systems shall be listed by a third party verification organization.

(b) Existing proprietary supervising station fire alarm systems shall comply with subsection (11)(a) hereinabove not later than five hundred forty-five (545) days after the effective date of this ordinance.

(12) *False Alarms, Inoperable Systems, Remedy of Existing Systems.* Any existing fire alarm system determined by the authority having jurisdiction to be inoperable for any reason, unless the system has been reported to the authority having jurisdiction and is in the process of actively being repaired, or a fire alarm system which has caused more than four nuisance alarms within any three hundred sixty-five (365) day period, shall be required to upgrade the fire alarm system to be in compliance with the new fire alarm requirements set forth in NFPA 101 (2003 Edition) Life Safety Code and Section 14-66(9) of this Code.

(Ord. No. 08-27, § 1, 3-4-08)

Sec. 14-67. Sprinkler systems, fire pumps, and other extinguishing systems.

(1) *Purpose.* The purpose of this section is to seek to obtain proper installation, operation, maintenance, testing, and supervision of sprinkler systems, fire pumps, and other fire extinguishing

maintenance, testing, and supervision of sprinkler systems, fire pumps, and other fire extinguishing systems, and to seek to obtain compliance with Chapter 633, Florida Statutes, the Florida Fire Prevention Code, the Florida Administrative Code Rule 69A-48 and Rule 69A-60, NFPA 72 (2002 Edition) National Fire Alarm Code, NFPA 13 (2002 Edition) Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, NFPA 13R (2002 Edition) Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Residential Occupancies up to and Including Four Stories in Height, and this section.

(2) *Scope of Regulations.* The provisions of this section shall apply to all sprinkler systems, except one- and two-family dwelling unit sprinkler systems, within the geographical area of Miami-Dade County.

(3) *New Sprinkler Systems.* All new sprinkler systems shall be supervised in accordance with NFPA 72 (2002 Edition) National Fire Alarm Code.

(4) *Compliance with Section 14-66.* Sprinkler systems, fire pumps and other extinguishing systems required to be supervised in accordance with NFPA 72 (2002 Edition), by any applicable code, or this section shall be installed, maintained, serviced and operated in accordance with all applicable codes and standards and Section 14-66 of this Code.

(Ord. No. 08-27, § 1, 3-4-08)