

MCALLEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Prevention Division, Fire Marshal's Office

ADMINISTRATIVE RULING 2018-01

Subject: Fire Alarm Control Panel (FACP) Addressable versus Conventional

Effective: May 21, 2018

Code Reference: NFPA 72, 2010 Edition

Scope

To identify the basis for an installation requirement of an addressable fire alarm control system as opposed to a conventional one.

Description of Problem:

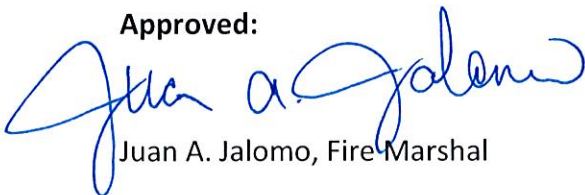
The Fire Department, property managers, developers, and property owners alike have experienced a multitude of problems when a conventional fire alarm control panel is installed in strip malls and multi-tenant buildings. The installation of a conventional panel in these buildings is primarily to monitor water flow. However, some of the tenant spaces within these buildings may be required to connect their fire protection systems to the building's conventional fire alarm system which may not have enough capacity to power. This will require the building owner to either upgrade to an addressable system or to expand to a larger conventional system, either of which will incur an additional cost.

Finally, a conventional FACP does not provide First Responders with the information as to which device has been activated, increasing the time spent in attempting to locate the activated device in a tenant space within these buildings.

Ruling:

NFPA 72 does not specify which panel should be used in strip malls and multi-tenant buildings, however, in order to minimize the concerns by all parties in said buildings, an Addressable Fire Alarm Control panel shall be required in the aforementioned building types.

Approved:



Juan A. Jalomo, Fire Marshal