



Bulletin for: Local Authorities, Municipal Fire Inspectors, Property Owners, and Fire Protection Service Providers

NOTICE: Installation & Maintenance of Special Fire Suppression Systems

Date Issued: October 17, 2023
OFC2023-03

The Office of the Fire Commissioner has been made aware of instances where installations and/or maintenance of special fire suppression systems are being completed by persons without proper qualifications and certification.

This bulletin is to remind local authorities, municipal fire inspectors, property owners, and service providers that all special fire suppression systems shall be designed, installed and maintained in conformance with the Manitoba Fire Code (MFC) and corresponding reference documents and standards. This means:

- The design and installation of a special fire suppression system shall conform to the corresponding standards as referenced in the MFC.
- Service personnel who perform the inspection, maintenance and testing of special fire suppression systems shall be trained in accordance with the applicable standard by the manufacturer or supplier of the special suppression system.
- Any additional training and/or qualifications required for design, installation, and maintenance must be completed.

Whether you are installing, inspecting, testing, or providing maintenance to special fire suppression systems, you must be trained by that specific manufacturer or supplier and you must maintain¹ and supply valid documentation of completion of the required training to the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).

Not proceeding in this fashion may result in further engagement by the AHJ where enforcement tools as provided under The Fires Prevention and Emergency Response Act may be exercised.

More information on the legislation associated with this bulletin can be found in the attached appendix.

If you have additional questions, please contact:



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¹ Maintain means hold certification from the manufacturer that is current and valid.

Legislation:

MFC 2.1.3.5 Special Fire Suppression Systems

- 1) Where a special fire suppression system is required by this Code, the system shall conform to one of the standards listed in Sentences (3) and (4).
- 2) If a water-based fire suppression system is not compatible with the fire suppression requirements for certain types of *dangerous goods*, a special fire suppression system conforming to one of the standards listed in Sentence (3) is permitted to be installed in lieu of a water-based system.
- 3) The design and installation of a special fire suppression system that is not water-based shall conform to the following standards:
 - a) NFPA 11, "Low-, Medium-, and High-Expansion Foam,"
 - b) NFPA 12, "Carbon Dioxide Extinguishing Systems,"
 - c) NFPA 12A, "Halon 1301 Fire Extinguishing Systems" (see Appendix A),
 - d) NFPA 12B, "Halon 1211 Fire Extinguishing Systems" (see Appendix A),
 - e) NFPA 17, "Dry Chemical Extinguishing Systems," or
 - f) NFPA 17A, "Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems."

MFC 2.1.3.7 Inspection, Maintenance and Testing of Fire Safety Devices

- 3) Service personnel who perform the inspection, maintenance and testing of special fire suppression systems under Article 2.1.3.5. shall be trained in accordance with the applicable standard by the manufacturer or supplier of the special suppression system.
- 4) Service personnel must maintain² and supply to the AHJ on request documentation of the completion of the training required under Sentence (3).

MFC 6.6.1.1

- 1) A special fire suppression system that meets the description given in any one of the standards referenced in Article 2.1.3.5. shall be tested, inspected and maintained in conformance with the appropriate requirements of that standard.

Corresponding reference documents may also include any further training and/or qualifications that are required.

e.g. NFPA 17A identifies the qualifications below:

6.2 Design and installation of systems shall be performed only by persons properly trained and qualified to design and/or install the specific system being provided. The installer shall provide certification to the AHJ that the installation complies with the terms of the listing and the manufacturer's instructions and/or approved design.

² Maintain means hold certification from the manufacturer that is current and valid.