



FDNY

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Fire Alarm Inspection Unit
Bureau of Fire Prevention

Fire Alarm Inspection Unit Bulletin # 03-01-2021 Remote Video Inspection Performance Test/Letter of No Objection Issuance (Pilot Program)

Issuer: Rocco Bonavita, Director, Fire Alarm Inspection Unit (FAIU)
Issuance Date: March 1st, 2021
Effective Date: Immediately
Purpose: Issuance of Letter of No Objection Based on Remote Video Inspection Performance Test of Fire Alarm System

To reduce the impact of extended wait times for Fire Alarm Inspections, the Fire Department has developed a remote video inspection performance test (“RVI-PT”) procedure, as set forth in this bulletin. The Fire Department will issue a Letter of No Objection (LNO) based upon satisfactory RVI-PT. The NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) may accept the LNO in place of a Letter of Approval or Notice of Defect in determining whether to issue a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCO) authorizing occupancy of a building, or a portion thereof.

Applicants must comply with the following requirements to request and obtain a RVI-PT of a fire alarm system:

1. Obtain approval of the design of the fire alarm system (“accepted plans”) from the Fire Alarm Plan Examination Unit of the Bureau of Fire Prevention.
2. Install the fire alarm system in accordance with the approved plans.
3. Arrange for the fire alarm system to be inspected and acceptance tested in accordance with NFPA 72 (as modified by NYC Building Code Appendix Q) by or under the direct supervision of a registered design professional trained and knowledgeable in fire alarm system design.
4. Submit a request for inspection (B-45) with FAIU for an RVI-PT in accordance with this bulletin and Fire Prevention Bulletin # 11-20-2020 (Remote Video Inspections) and include the following information and documentation:

- A. A copy of the executed B-45 showing the scheduled date of the initial in-person inspection.
- B. The date and application numbers of the relevant Fire Department approvals indicating compliance with Item #1 above.
- C. A signed and sealed affidavit from the registered design professional responsible for the inspection and acceptance testing of the fire alarm system certifying that the fire alarm system was installed and is operating in accordance with all applicable New York City codes, rules and regulations and the accepted plans.
- D. An executed as-built riser diagram.
- E. A narrative describing the hardship requiring an RVI-PT.

The RVI-PT will, at a minimum, include the installation and proper operation of the fire alarm system control panel(s); the installation and proper operation of notification and initiating devices; and required fire safety functions.

Upon a satisfactory RVI-PT, FAIU will issue a Letter of No Objection to Department of Buildings (DOB) stating that FDNY does not object to DOB issuance of a TCO, pending completion of an in-person Fire Department inspection of the fire alarm system. Upon completion of the in-person Fire Department inspection, the DOB will determine whether the fire watch may be discontinued or must be maintained until defects are corrected.

Cancellation of the scheduled in-person inspection, failure to cooperate in scheduling or conducting the inspection, and/or other failure to diligently pursue the fire alarm system inspection through to a Letter of Approval may result in the TCO being revoked.

Refer to Fire Prevention Bulletin # 11-20-2020 for instructions on how to schedule and conduct the Remote Video Inspection.