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Office of Louisiana State Fire Marshal
Code Enforcement and Building Safety

Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Public Safety Services



H. BUTCH BROWNING
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM 2016 - 01

To: OSFM Industry Partners
OSFM Staff

From: Joe Delaune, Chief Architect/Plan Review, OSFM

Approved by: Chief Butch Browning, State Fire Marshal

Date: January 26, 2016

**RE: LOW FREQUENCY ALARM SIGNAL for
Single- and Multiple-Station Alarms and Household Fire Alarm Systems**

This memorandum addresses **Single- and Multiple-Station Alarms and Household Fire Alarm System** requirements only.

Section 29.3.6 of the 2010 Edition of NFPA 72 requires audible fire alarm signals to meet the performance requirements of Sections 18.4.3 and 18.4.5. Section 18.4.5 prescribes a specific low frequency alarm signal that is to be audible within sleeping areas.

The low frequency system requirement for household fire warning equipment has been removed from both the 2013 Edition and the 2016 Edition of NFPA 72. Section 29.3.6 of these editions reads: "*All audible fire alarm signals installed shall meet the performance requirements of 18.4.3, 18.4.5.1, 18.4.5.2, and 29.3.8.*" and reference to Section 18.4.5.3 has been removed.

Therefore, it is the interpretation of this office that **the low frequency alarm signal characteristic of NFPA 72:18.4.5.3, 2010 Edition are NOT intended to apply to Single- and Multiple- Station Alarms and Household Fire Alarm Systems** that are provided within residential occupancies.

Please note that this requirement remains applicable for **Building Fire Alarm System** alarms where sleeping areas are provided. The general building/occupancy evacuation alarm shall continue to produce the low frequency signal characteristic required by NFPA 72:18.4.5.3 at these sleeping areas.

END