NATIONAL FIRE ALARM CODE 2010 EDITION



23.18* SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LOW-POWER RADIO (WIRELESS) SYSTEMS

- **23.18.1*** Listing Requirements. Compliance with Section 6.17 shall require the use of low-power radio equipment specifically listed for the purpose.
- **23.18.2** Power Supplies. A primary battery (dry cell) shall be permitted to be used as the sole power source of a low-power radio transmitter where all of the following conditions are met:
- 1. Each transmitter shall serve only one device and shall be individually identified at the receiver/fire alarm control unit.
- 2. The battery shall be capable of operating the low-power radio transmitter for not less than 1 year before the battery depletion threshold is reached.
- 3. A battery depletion signal shall be transmitted before the battery has been depleted to a level below that required to support alarm transmission after 7 additional days of non-alarm operation. This signal shall be distinctive from alarm, supervisory, tamper and trouble signals; shall visibly identify the affected low-power radio transmitter; and, when silenced, shall automatically re-sound at least once every 4 hours.
- 4. Catastrophic (open or short) battery failure shall cause a trouble signal identifying the affected low-power radio transmitter at its receiver /fire alarm control unit. When silenced, the trouble signal shall automatically re-sound at least once every 4 hours.
- 5. Any mode of failure of a primary battery in a lowpower radio transmitter shall not affect any other lowpower radio transmitter.

23.18.3 ALARM SIGNALS

- 23.18.3.1* When actuated, each low-power radio transmitter shall automatically transmit an alarm signal.
- **23.18.3.2** Each low-power radio transmitter shall automatically repeat alarm transmission at intervals not exceeding 60 seconds until the initiating device is

returned to its non alarm condition.

- **23.18.3.3** Fire alarm signals shall have priority over all other wireless signals.
- **23.18.3.4** The maximum allowable response delay from activation of an initiating device to receipt and display by the receiver/fire alarm control unit shall be 10 seconds.
- **23.18.3.5** An alarm signal from a low-power radio transmitter shall latch at its receiver/fire alarm control unit until manually reset and shall identify the particular initiating device in alarm.

23.18.4 MONITORING FOR INTEGRITY

- **23.18.4.1** The low-power radio transmitter shall be specifically listed as using a transmission method that is highly resistant to misinterpretation of simultaneous transmissions and to interference (e.g. impulse noise and adjacent channel interference).
- **23.18.4.2** The occurrence of any single fault that disables transmission between any low-power radio transmitter and the receiver/fire alarm control unit shall cause a latching trouble signal within 200 seconds.

Exception: Until the expiration for this exception of June 30, 2013, the time period for a low-power radio transmitter with only a single, connected alarm initiating device shall be permitted to be increased to four times the minimum time interval permitted for a 1-second transmission up to the following:

- (1) 4 hours maximum for a transmitter serving a single initiating device
- (2) 4 hours maximum for a retransmission device (repeater), where disabling of the repeater or its transmission does not prevent the receipt of signals at the receiver/fire alarm control unit from any initiating device transmitter
- **23.18.4.3** A single fault on the signaling channel shall not cause an alarm signal.
- 23.18.4.4 The periodic transmission required to comply



with 23.17.4.2 from a low-power radio transmitter shall ensure successful alarm transmission capability.

- **23.18.4.5** Removal of a low-power radio transmitter from its installed location shall cause immediate transmission of a distinctive supervisory signal that indicates its removal and individually identifies the affected device.
- 23.18.4.6 Reception of any unwanted (interfering) transmission by a retransmission device (repeater) or by the main receiver/ control unit, for a continuous period of 20 seconds or more, shall cause an audible and visible trouble indication at the main receiver/control unit. This indication shall identify the specific trouble condition as an interfering signal.
- **23.18.5** Output Signals from Receiver/Control. When the receiver/control is used to actuate remote appliances, such as notification appliances and relays, by wireless means, the remote appliances shall meet the following requirements:
- 1. Power supplies shall comply with Chapter 4 or the requirements of 6.17.2.
- 2. All supervision requirements of Chapter 4, Chapter 6 or 6.17.4 shall apply.
- 3. The maximum allowable response delay from activation of an initiating device to activation of required alarm functions shall be 10 seconds.
- 4. Each receiver/control shall automatically repeat alarm transmission at intervals not exceeding 60 seconds or until confirmation that the output appliance has received the alarm signal.
- 5. The appliances shall continue to operate (latch-in) until manually reset at the receiver/control.