Notes to Part 6

Fire Protection Equipment

A-6.1.1.2.(1) Both the BCBC and the BCFC assume that all fire protection systems in a building, whether required by Code or voluntarily installed, will be designed in conformance with good fire protection engineering practice and will meet the appropriate installation requirements in relevant standards. Such good design is necessary to ensure that the level of safety established by the Code requirements is not reduced by a voluntary installation. Thus, a voluntarily installed system should be maintained in operating condition, at least to the extent that it was originally intended to function, in conformance with the applicable installation standards.

A-6.1.1.3.(1) Notification of planned or emergency interruption or curtailment of service of fire protection installations is preferably given in advance when possible. The parties to be notified who could be affected may include, but are not necessarily limited to, the fire department, supervisory staff in the building and the occupants of the building.

A-6.1.1.4.(1) Interruption of normal operation of a fire protection system for any purpose constitutes a "temporary shutdown." Types of interruptions include, but are not limited to, periodic inspection or testing, maintenance, and repairs. During a shutdown, alternative measures are necessary to ensure that the level of safety intended by the Code is maintained.

In the shutdown of a fire alarm system, alternative measures should be worked out in cooperation with the fire department to ensure that all persons in the building can be promptly informed, and the fire department notified, should a fire occur while the alarm system is out of service.

When a sprinkler system is shut down, measures that can be taken include the provision of: emergency hose lines and portable extinguishers, extra fire watch service and, where practicable, temporary water connections to the sprinkler system.

A-6.3.1.3.(1) The referenced document provides for regular testing and review of the central station facilities and of the connections to the premises containing the fire alarm system. The Code does not mandate a particular series of events from initiation of the fire alarm signal circuits in the building to notification of the fire department. In some cases, the signals to the central station are automatically forwarded to the fire department, whereas in others, the central station initiates the notification of the fire department.

A-6.3.1.4.(2) Sentence 6.3.1.4.(2) is intended to ensure that a voice communication system that is not tested as part of an associated fire alarm system, but that will be relied upon during a fire emergency, will be tested periodically.

A-6.4.1.1.(1) Water-based fire protection systems include sprinkler systems, standpipes, private hydrants, hose systems, water spray fixed systems, foam-water sprinkler systems, foam-water spray systems, and fire pumps.

A-6.5.1.1.(2) CSA Z32, "Electrical Safety and Essential Electrical Systems in Health Care Facilities," contains requirements over and above those relating specifically to the inspection, testing and maintenance of emergency equipment: compliance with these other requirements is not intended by the reference in Sentence 6.5.1.1.(2). The standard defines three classes of health care facilities – Class A, Class B, and Class C – but applies only to Class A and Class C facilities. Class B facilities, which accommodate people who, as a result of physical or mental disabilities, are unable to function independently and need daily care by health care professionals, are covered by CSA C282, "Emergency Electrical Power Supply for Buildings."

A-6.5.1.5.(1) This can be achieved by replenishment as the result of the routine test program required by Article 6.5.1.1.

A-6.5.1.8. Exit signs are to be visible by being unobstructed, illuminated and readily identifiable as indicating the location of the means of egress.

A-6.8.1.1.(1) Building owners must ensure that fire protection and life safety systems and their components (i.e. fire alarm systems, sprinklers, standpipes, smoke control, ventilation, pressurization, door hold-open devices, elevator recalls, smoke and fire shutters and dampers, emergency power, emergency lighting, fire pumps, generators, etc.), including their interconnections with other building systems, are functioning according to the intent of their design. CAN/ULC-S1001, "Integrated Systems Testing of Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems," provides the methodology for verifying and documenting that interconnections between building systems satisfy the intent of their design and that the systems function as intended by the Code.

Clause 6.1.5 of CAN/ULC-S1001 allows the Integrated Testing Coordinator to accept documented evidence of any tests that have been performed on a system as part of its acceptance testing for the purpose of demonstrating compliance with the integrated testing requirements of that standard, so as to avoid duplication of work.