



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 9088**



Date August 13, 2025

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Section 907.2.2

Question:

Is the term "manual fire alarm system" intended to encompass all types of fire alarm systems?

Answer

No, please see the attached commentary

Commentary:

FBC907 requires an "approved fire alarm system" installed in accordance with the provisions of this code and NFPA 72. NFPA72 does define a manual fire alarm box (NFPA 72-2019, 3.3.164 "Manual Fire Alarm Box: A manually operated device used to initiate an alarm signal.")

The code goes on to require "manual fire alarm box(s)" under certain conditions, for example, FBC907.2.2 Group B (with exceptions)

The advice you were given that "manual fire alarm system" means all types of systems" would be the same as saying that "all types of systems are manual fire alarm systems", which is not the case; for example the exception to FBC907.2.1 Group A which reads, "Manual fire alarm boxes are not required where the building is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 and the occupant notification appliances will activate throughout the notification zones upon sprinkler water flow."

All manual fire alarm systems are fire alarm systems, but not all fire alarm systems are manual.

Notice:

The Building Officials Association of Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission, the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation, ICC, and industry and professional experts offer this interpretation of the Florida Building Code in the interest of consistency in their application statewide. This interpretation is informal, non-binding and subject to acceptance and approval by the local building official.