



BULLETIN 2006-001-F1

May 12, 2006

Fire Alarm Inspection and Testing
Annual Test Procedures in conformance with CAN/ULC S536

This Bulletin clarifies the provision of ULC S536 with respect to the use of a Resetting Device or "Black Box" during the inspection and testing of a Fire Alarm System.

In accordance with the interpretation obtained from ULC, under ULC Certificate Service for Fire Alarm Systems, resetting devices or "black boxes" shall not be used for testing Fire Alarm System components. These resetting devices are frequently used to remotely test fire alarm components (smoke or heat detectors, pull stations) without manually resetting the Fire Alarm System control unit. As these resetting devices are intended for convenience purpose in lieu of a second technician on site during the annual testing of a Fire Alarm System, such use of these devices is not acceptable for the purpose of conformance to CAN/ULC S536. The audible signal devices may not sound upon actuation of a fire alarm initiating device and therefore confirmation of the fact that a fire alarm initiating device is activated cannot be accurately verified.

All fire alarm systems are required to be tested annually in accordance with CAN/ULC S536 as mandated by the Vancouver Fire By-law.

Section 5 of CAN/ULC S536 (Clause 5.1 Documentation) states that all inspections and tests required by this Standard shall be documented in a report similar to Appendix E.

Appendix "E", Part "E3.2", Individual Device Record, shows several columns that must be filled out, and they are as follows:

- Alarm Confirmation Confirmed
- Alarm Annunciation Confirmed
- Zone Circuit Number or Address

The above noted items can only be confirmed at the fire control unit or the annunciator. If the technician using a resetting device does not return to the panel for confirmation of each device tested, the annual test is not considered as being performed in accordance with CAN/ULC S536, as the technician is only assuming that actuation of the device is properly annunciated at the panel and properly zoned.

Les Sziklai
DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE PREVENTION

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