



Your Fire Marshal has chosen to require that fire alarm systems within your community be covered by a Underwriters Laboratories certificate. This program helps to reduce false alarms, ensure that systems are properly maintained and serviced and that they comply with nationally recognized codes and standards--making your community a safer place to live.

UL's Fire Alarm Certification Program covers two categories of fire alarm systems:

UUFX-Protective Signaling Services -Central Station

UUJS-Protective Signaling Services- Local, Auxiliary, Remote Station and Proprietary

The 4 letter designation at the beginning of the above categories is called a category classification code; many people shorten these categories and use only the category code as the category title.

Both categories use the National Fire Alarm Code (NFPA) as the referenced standards to determine compliance. The code and edition year is referenced on the certificate. While both categories reference NFPA 72 each type of system has their own unique requirements noted below. The two primary categories that are covered by certificates are Central Station Service and Remote Station; so that is what we will be comparing.

Central Station Service(UUFX)

The service scope for this category consists of the following elements:

- 1.Installation of fire alarm transmitters
- 2.Signal monitoring
- 3.Signal retransmission
- 4.Record keeping and reporting
- 5.Testing and maintenance
- 6.Runner Service (response to the protected property by alarm company staff, when a signal cannot be reset by someone on site)

Items 2, 3 & 4 have specific code based response and record keeping requirements)

These service elements must be provided under contract to the protected property as described in NFPA 72 by the certificate issuing contractor

Remote Station(UUJS)

These types of systems are monitored off premises by either a fire station or at the governmental agency that has public responsibility for taking prescribed action to ensure response upon receipt of an alarm signal, or at an alternate location that is approved by the AHJ.

There are no runner response requirements for this category, however, upon receipt of a signal from the property the operators is required to notify the system owner or their designated representative of the condition. Fire Signals are to be reported to the fire department prior to notifying system owner or their representative.

Remote Station cont. The system owner is responsible for testing and maintenance of the system. If the system owner or their staff do not meet the qualifications noted in the testing and maintenance chapter of NFPA 72, the owner shall delegate these services to qualified personnel. This delegation shall be in writing. Basically, an agreement is needed stating that the UL Listed alarm contractor is responsible for providing regular system test and repair and maintenance of the system.

The 2010 edition added a requirement for Indication of Remote Station Service (sect 26.5.2) Owners utilizing remote station alarm systems shall provide annual documentation to the authority having jurisdiction identifying the party responsible for the inspection, testing, and maintenance of Chapter 14. The documentation shall take one of the following forms:

- 1) An affidavit attesting to the responsibilities and qualifications of the parties performing the inspection, testing, and maintenance and accepting responsibility of compliance with Chapter 14. This document shall be signed by a representative of the service provider.
- 2) Documentation indicating code compliance of the remote station alarm system issued by the organization that listed the service provider.
- 3) Other documentation acceptable to the AHJ.

Note: UL Certification satisfies #2

Common requirements to both categories

System documentation is required for both categories. This documentation includes:

1. As-built (record drawings) showing device locations, control panel, wiring runs, breaker locations and EOL locations
2. Battery calculations
3. Initial Acceptance Test
4. Record of completion
5. Access to owner's manual.
6. Minimum of 24hrs of standby power
7. Contracts or agreements as described in each category above, these may be time and material agreements or a flat rate fee depending on what the alarm contractor and the system owner agree to. In either case there must be a written agreement indicate who is responsible for the required each of the elements of service.

As a side note to this program, many insurance companies provide premium reductions for having a UL Certificated Fire Alarm System. Please check with your insurer provider to determine if you are eligible for these credits.

Please contact me if you have any additional questions or concerns.

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