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FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING SAFETY COMMISSION

Nonrule Policy by  
Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission  
November 23, 2015

**Title:** Nonrule Policy Regarding [675 IAC 12-4-9](#) and [675 IAC 12-6-4\(b\)\(3\)\(G\)](#)

**Purpose:** To clarify that enforcing [675 IAC 12-6-4\(b\)\(3\)\(G\)](#) without regard to [675 IAC 12-4-9](#) constitutes an unintentional and unnecessary burden.

**Given:** [675 IAC 12](#) Titled General Administrative Rules; Rule 4

[675 IAC 12-4-9](#) Maintenance of buildings and structures

Sec. 9. (a) All buildings and structures, and any part of the permanent heating, ventilating, air conditioning, electrical, plumbing, sanitary, emergency detection, emergency communication, or fire or explosion systems, and all parts thereof, shall be maintained in conformance with the applicable rules of the commission, or applicable rules of its predecessor agencies, in effect when constructed, installed, or altered.

[675 IAC 12](#) Titled General Administrative Rules; Rule 6

[675 IAC 12-6-4](#) Exemptions from design release requirement

Sec. 4. (b) Design releases are necessary for the remodeling or altering of all Class 1 structures, except work limited to one (1) or more of the following:

(3) Electrical work as follows:

(G) Except for fire detection or fire alarm systems, electrical wiring, devices, appliances, apparatus, or equipment:

- (i) operating at less than twenty-five (25) volts; and
- (ii) not capable of supplying more than fifty (50) watts of energy.

**Policy:** The Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission has determined that: in light of the clear requirement in [675 IAC 12-4-9](#) that systems are required to be maintained in conformance with the rules of the commission in effect at the time of installation; requiring a design release to maintain a system that needs only repairs or replacement of devices is an unnecessary and unintended burden. Therefore, the following exemptions are recognized as not needing a CDR:

- (1) Replacement in the same location of devices of a similar type and rating (smoke detectors, heat detectors, HVAC duct detectors, manual pull stations, notification devices, etc.) when the functionality of the devices is the same and the UL listing of the device(s) has not been compromised.
- (2) Replacement in the same location of equipment of a similar type and rating (fire alarm control panels, annunciators, NAC panels, etc.) when the functionality of the equipment is the same and the UL listing of the equipment has not been compromised. This includes outdated or damaged conventional panels replaced with either up-to-date conventional panels or "smart panels" where no addition/replacement of wiring occurs, or no addition of new devices occurs.

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