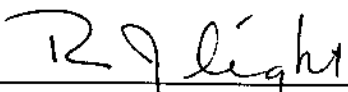


**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

File No: 98-0087	INTERPRETATION	Page 1 of 1
Interpretation Date:	December 15, 2004	
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 1998	
Subject:	Transmission of fire alarm signals to monitoring agency	
Keywords:	fire alarm signals, monitoring agency, DVACS (Digital Voice Access Control System)	
Building Code Reference(s):	3.2.4.7.(4), NFPA 71 (1989), NFPA 72~5-5	
Question:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Are separate dedicated telephone lines for fire alarm monitoring required, where transmission of fire alarm signals to a fire alarm monitoring agency is prescribed?2. Can a DVACS (Digital Voice Access Control System) be used for signal transmission to a fire alarm monitoring agency, in lieu of through normal separate dedicated telephone lines?	
Interpretation:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Yes. <p>Separate dedicated telephone lines are required for fire alarm signals to be sent to the fire alarm monitoring station in order to provide a reliable means of signal transmission and to allow priority of the fire alarm signals over other transmissions. Such dedicated telephone lines cannot be used for normal telephone use.</p><p>Sentence 3.2.4.7.(4) requires that signals to the fire department be by way of an independent central station conforming to NFPA 71 (1989) or a proprietary control centre conforming to Chapter 9 of NFPA 72 (1990). Where such facilities are not available in the municipality, an independent system is permitted to be built, used to transmit signals to the fire department.</p><p>NFPA 71 & 72 address components of monitoring to a central station, including a control line between a fire alarm system and a transmitter, and communication line (or lines) between the transmitter and the central monitoring station.</p>2. Yes. <p>Current NFPA 72 1999 edition, 5-5.2.1.2. permits use of listed equipment using alternate communications methods that provide a level of reliability and supervision consistent with the intended level of protection. DVACS systems typically incorporate a dedicated transmission line used for constant polling signals. The equipment used must be appropriately listed and tested in accordance with NFPA 72 for performance.</p> <div style="margin-top: 20px;"> <hr style="width: 30%; margin-left: 0;"/><p>R. J. Light, Committee Chair</p></div>	
<p>The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee of AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, and POABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. The purpose of the committee is to encourage uniform province wide interpretation of the BC Building Code. These views should not be considered as the official interpretation of legislated requirements based on the BC Building Code, as final responsibility for an interpretation rests with the local <i>Authority Having Jurisdiction</i>. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.</p>		