

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY BOARD OF FIRE CONTROL PROPOSED FIRE CODE AMENDMENT

Proposal submitted by:

Name: Mark Richards, PE (License No. 14939) **Date:** August 2, 2016
Company: Nortech Systems
Address: 150 Ham Rd
Barrington, NH 03825
Telephone: (603) 234-3172
E-mail: mrichards@nortechsystems.com

Applicable Fire Code: New Hampshire State Fire Code (Saf-C 6000)

Code Section No.: Saf-C 6008.03 (d)

Current Code Language: Section 13.6.2 of NFPA 1 shall be amended as follows:
"13.6.2 Where Required. Fire extinguishers shall be provided where required by this code as specified in Table 13.6.2 and the referenced codes and standards listed in Chapter 2. In new construction, the required fire extinguishers shall be electronically monitored in accordance with 13.6.9.1.5. Exception: The electronic monitoring of fire extinguishers shall not apply in occupancies that do not require a fire alarm system."

Fire Code Change Proposal: Remove the amendment. Leave Section 13.6.2 of NFPA 1-2009 as written: "13.6.2 Where Required. Fire extinguishers shall be provided where required by this code as specified in Table 13.6.2 and the referenced codes and standards listed in Chapter 2."

Justification for Change:

1. NH is the only state to require electronic monitoring of fire extinguishers.
2. In Nortech's experience, most systems that electronically monitor fire extinguishers experience failures or nuisance alarms. This complaint is reiterated by many contractors, professional engineers and fire department personnel. System failures and nuisance alarms add to the workload of already taxed fire departments.

RECEIVED

AUG 05 2016

NH DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
NH FIRE SAFETY

3. The modules responsible for the electronic monitoring of fire extinguishers are only made by one manufacturer, who's not willing to sell direct. The vast majority of contractors must go through a select group of distributors. These distributors are usually the contractor's competition (For example, Fire Alarm Company "A" must buy from Fire Alarm Company "B"). Therefore, the cost of modules is grossly marked up for many contractors. This severely affects competition between contractors; I believe the intent of NH's anti-trust laws is to prevent such hardships.
 - a. The average contractor can buy a standard monitor module for less than \$50 (very conservative, contractors can buy a monitor module for less than half that cost). Meanwhile, to buy a module for fire extinguisher supervision, the average contractor must pay at least \$250. A large amount of this \$200 price difference is price markup from the competitor. This adds up considering most new faculties are required to be equipped with multiple fire extinguishers.

Board of Fire Control Action: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved w/ Modifications: _____

Not Approved: _____

Modifications: _____

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark Richards, PE
Fire Protection Engineer

Not approved: Approved: _____ Approved with modifications: _____

Hearing Date: 10-5-16 Voting Date: 11-16-16

Chair's Signature: [Signature] Date: 11-16-2016

Printed Name: Daniel K. Andrews

Fire Marshal's Signature: [Signature] Date: 11-16-16

Printed Name: J. William Deyron

Commissioner's Signature: [Signature] Date: 11/22/16

Printed Name: John Barthelmes