

## VISUAL SIGNALS

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this Standata is to clarify the intended locations for Visual Signal Devices under the Alberta Building Code 2014 (ABC 2014).

### DISCUSSION

Safety codes officers and code users have raised issues with the lack of clarity as to the required number and location of visual signal devices. Situations have developed where visual signals are installed in locations that are not necessary for compliance or alternatively, visual signals are omitted from locations that are necessary for compliance and public safety. This interpretation is designed to provide a consistent application of the ABC 2014.

### CODE REFERENCES

Article 3.2.4.5. states:

#### **3.2.4.5. Installation and Verification of Fire Alarm Systems**

1) Except as permitted by Articles 3.2.4.11. and 3.2.4.20., fire alarm systems, including the voice communication capability where provided, shall be installed in conformance with CAN/ULC-S524, "Installation of Fire Alarm Systems."

Article 3.2.4.20. states:

#### **3.2.4.20. Visual Signals**

(See Appendix A.)

- 1) Visual signal devices shall be installed in addition to audible signal devices in *buildings* required to have a fire alarm system and shall conform to CAN/ULC-S526, "Visible Signal Devices for Fire Alarm Systems Including Accessories."
- 2) Visual signal devices required by Sentence (1) shall be installed so that the signal from at least one device is visible within a *suite* in which they are installed.

### APPLICATION

Sentence 3.2.4.20.(1) applies to all buildings with a fire alarm system.

Sentence 3.2.4.20.(2) only applies to residential suites.

### INTERPRETATION

1. Sentence 3.2.4.20.(1) is interpreted as requiring visual signals visible throughout occupied floor areas (areas which may be considered not occupied may include but are not limited to service rooms, storage rooms, and janitor closets) and areas of high ambient noise (i.e. exceeds 87 dBA), in addition to audible signals. The appropriate number and location of visual signal devices shall comply with CAN/ULC-S524.

Unless stated otherwise, all Code references in this STANDATA are to Division B of the Alberta Building Code 2014.

Issue of this STANDATA is authorized by  
the Building Administrator

[Original Signed]  
Paul Chang



2. For buildings required to have a fire alarm system, Sentence 3.2.4.20.(2) is interpreted as requiring a minimum of one device to be located within a residential suite. The visual signal shall be visible within the residential suite's principal living area (i.e. living room); which is intended for use by all occupants of the suite.

This INTERPRETATION is applicable throughout the province of Alberta.