



Miami Beach Fire Department
FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION
STANDARDS



TOPIC: Security Systems

STANDARD NO: EXINSP -S20

Revision 0

This FPS is issued to address the security concerns that exist today in most buildings. It has become evident that building owners have the need to control access to their buildings. The weakest point from a security standpoint is access through the stairwells. This FP Standard will provide an option to building owners to solve the security concerns and still comply with the Life Safety Code. This FPS does not override NFPA 101 Section 7.2.1.5.7 nor Section 7.2.1.5.5; rather the FPS is to allow security equipment inside the stairwell where it has been prohibited in the past.

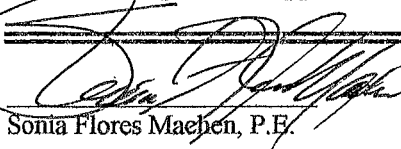
FFPC, NFPA 101, Section 7.1.3.2.1 (9) states:

Penetration into, and openings through, an exit enclosure assembly shall be limited to the following: ... (b) Electrical conduit serving the exit enclosure

The new code has given the Fire Marshal the authority to permit security systems when requested by the building owners. Therefore, buildings owners will be permitted to install security systems inside the stairwells provided they comply with the following:

1. Obtain an electrical permit – low voltage with plans submitted to the Building Dept, and an incidental fire alarm permit for connection to fire alarm system.
2. The component of the security system permitted inside the stairwell is limited to card reader box, code key box, and security cameras. Control panel or other equipment associated with the system must be located outside the stairwell.
3. All the wiring must be low voltage and installed in metal conduit.
4. The system should be designed to minimize the number of wall penetrations into the stairwell. All the penetrations for the conduit must be protected with a listed firestopping system and installed on both sides of the wall. Firestopping system must be installed by a properly licensed contractor with the proper building permit.
5. All equipment shall be installed in accordance with its listing and the provisions in NFPA 70-National Electrical Code.
6. The security system cannot interfere with egress in any way. No delays in egress at any time.
7. The building must have a fire alarm system capable of disengaging the locking mechanism.
8. The provision for re-entry per NFPA 101, Section 7.2.1.5.7(2) must be met which states that an automatic release that is actuated with the initiation of the fire alarm system shall be provided to unlock all stair enclosure door assemblies to allow re-entry. The fire alarm system must be reset before locks can re-energize.
9. No penetrations shall be allowed that communicate two adjacent stairwells (i.e., scissors stairs).
10. Camera equipment inside the stairwell must be installed at head clearance of 7'6" or above.
11. The stairwell must not have any unapproved, non-compliant equipment inside the stairwell.
12. All life safety components in the stairwell must be operable and code compliant (i.e, fire doors, emergency lighting, normal lighting, signage, etc.)

In plan review, check for items 1 through 10 shown on the plans. For items 11 and 12, field inspector must check before permit is approved.


Sonia Flores Machen, P.E.

3/9/2012
Date Issued