

## **Safety Codes Services Construction Bulletin**

### **Commissioning of life safety systems in the 2014 ABC & 2014 Alberta Fire Code**

April 7, 2016

Prior to the 2014 Alberta Building Code (ABC), the ABC required individual verifications of each life safety system within a building. With the adoption of the 2014 ABC and Alberta Fire Code (AFC) in May 2015, there is a new requirement for commissioning of life safety and fire protection systems so that all individual parts of the life safety system will work together as an integrated system.

“Where life safety and fire protection systems are installed to comply with the provisions of this Code or the AFC, the commissioning of these integrated systems must be performed as a whole to ensure proper operation and inter-relationship between the systems.” [From 2014 ABC articles 3.2.4.6. and 9.10.1.2. (AFC2.1.3.8. same example for reference to ABC)]

While monitoring the process of the development of the National Building Code (NBC) and the National Fire Code (NFC), we have become aware that in the 2015 NBC and NFC, this article and requirements will be expanded to recognize a new Underwriters Laboratory Canada (ULC) standard that deals with the testing and integration of the life safety systems. CAN/ULC S1001-11 *Standard for Integrated Systems Testing of Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems* was adopted by ULC in 2011 to meet the needs of the NBC and NFC for integrated systems testing of fire protection, life safety systems and these functions within other systems. It represents the process of integrated systems testing and is the first ULC standard related to commissioning. The standard also provides an avenue for obtaining compliance with the noted ABC article above.

CAN/ULC S1001-11 prescribes:

- Methodology for verifying and documenting that all interconnections between systems provided for fire protection and life safety functions are installed and operating in conformance with their design criteria.
- Integrated systems qualifications, process, requirements and documentation.
- Periodic integrated system testing.
- Retro-integrated system testing.
- Integrated system testing for modifications.

The City of Medicine Hat has reviewed that a practical interpretation of the 2014 ABC and AFC requirements for commissioning is to request compliance with CAN/ULC S1001. This will provide a consistent application of the requirements to owners/designers with a process and documentation method that can be applied from the beginning of construction to avoid issues prior to occupancy. Under the Safety Codes Act, this responsibility falls to the owner of the building.

**Therefore, Building permits applied for under the 2014 ABC are requested to comply with this standard.**

If you require additional information, please contact a Commercial Building Safety Codes Officer at 403-529-8207.