



Clark County Department of Building & Fire Prevention

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Division:	Fire Prevention	Code Interpretation:	FP-CI-49
Subject:	AUDIBILITY TESTING FOR LAUNDRY ROOMS IN APARTMENTS & CONDOMINIUMS	Effective Date:	04/18/17
Code:	2012 IFC Sections 907.5.2.1.1	Revised Date:	NEW

A. SUBJECT:

The Appeals Board for the Clark County Fire Code has ruled on a request to test the sound pressure in laundry rooms less than 100 square feet in size with the doors open.

B. CODE REQUIREMENT:

907.5.2.1.1 Average sound pressure. The audible alarm notification appliances shall provide a sound pressure level of 15 decibels (15 dBA) above the average ambient sound level or 5 dBA above the maximum sound level having a duration of at least 60 seconds, whichever is greater, in every occupiable space within the building. The minimum sound pressure levels shall be: 90 dBA in mechanical equipment rooms; and 80 dBA in other occupancies. One of the two methods below shall be utilized to ensure that the minimum sound level will be achieved:

- (1) Audible notification devices shall be installed in each occupied area, including but not limited to spaces such as all bathrooms, walk-in closets greater than 100 sf., storage rooms greater than 100 sf., and walk-in coolers/freezers greater than 100 sf.
- (2) In lieu of providing audible notification devices within certain spaces, calculations may be performed in order to prove that the alarm signals from the proposed adjacent audible devices will achieve a minimum of 80 decibels inside and throughout that space, where doors or other barriers between the space and the adjacent audibility device(s) are closed.

Exception: In areas required to be protected with low-frequency alarms, the 80dBA minimum sound pressure provision is not required where no listed fire alarm device is available to simultaneously achieve both the low-frequency signal and the 80dBA minimum sound pressure.

C. INTERPRETATION:

The Clark County Board of Fire Code Appeals ruled that testing should be permitted with the laundry door open for all laundry rooms less than 100 square feet. This application would match the methodology currently utilized for testing closets that are less than 100 square feet.

D. RATIONALE:

This code interpretation is intended to ensure consistent application of IFC Section 907.5.2.1.1.

Revision History:

POLICY #	TITLE	Effective Date	Revised	Reviewed

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