



February 8, 2008

STANDARDS BULLETIN 2008-04

CAN/ULC-S537-04, Verification of Fire Alarm Systems

INTERPRETATION OF APPENDIX G (INFORMATIVE), SOUND LEVEL MEASUREMENTS

The following is an interpretation of Appendix G (Informative), Sound Level Measurements, by the ULC Subcommittee on Installation, Inspection and Testing, and Verification of Fire Alarm Systems, on CAN/ULC-S537-04 (Verification of Fire Alarm Systems). This is being issued in response to a request for an interpretation that was received by ULC.

Interpretation Request:

We realize that Appendix G, like all Appendices in ULC Standards, is provided for informative purposes only, but apparently some local Authorities Having Jurisdiction have been known to consider the requirements of that Appendix part of the actual requirements of the Standard.

In appendix G, section G3.1, it states that "...The selected suite or suites should be fully furnished at the time of the tests."

On the west coast there are many variations in home designs, including both minimalist Asian home designs and fully loaded queen Victorian designs. Both are "fully furnished" but the sound levels in each would be very different. Also, places are selling so fast that show suites are either not being built at all or are being set up off-site in a separate building.

Question #1:

With such diversity in home designs, and therefore in the amount and type of furnishings in a "fully furnished" home, is there really any practical method to establish if a home is "fully furnished" for the sake of consistency in such testing, and if so, what is that practical method?

Interpretation by ULC Subcommittee on Installation, Inspection and Testing, and Verification of Fire Alarm Systems:

Appendix G, Sound Level Measurements, identified as informative, is provided for informational purposes only and its enforceability is at the discretion of the Authorities Having Jurisdiction. However, it should be noted that the audibility levels are required to comply with the National Building Code of Canada, irrespective of how the suites are furnished.

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Since there are no practical methods for standardizing and defining a "fully furnished" home, it is suggested to design for a typical suite taking into consideration a 'worst-case' scenario for the building intended for residential occupancy.

Question #2:

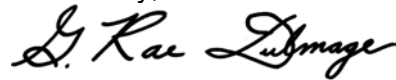
Whose responsibility is it to provide the fully furnished site?

Interpretation by ULC Subcommittee on Installation, Inspection and Testing, and Verification of Fire Alarm Systems:

It is the responsibility of the owner or representative, in consultation with the authority having jurisdiction to provide a fully furnished suite. The requirements for final audibility levels still has to be in accordance with the National Building Code of Canada, irrespective of how the suites are furnished.

Should you require any additional information, please contact Mahendra (Mike) Prasad at 416-757-5250 Ext. 61242 or email: mahendra.prasad@ca.ul.com

Yours truly,



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