

Construction Industry Communication #044

From: Amit Ghosh, Chief Building Official

**Re: Clarification for Monitoring Duct Smoke Detection Systems
Not Connected to a Required Fire Alarm System**

Date: August 22, 2016

Requirements:

The 2011 Ohio Mechanical Code Section 606.4.1, Exception # 2 requires the actuation of a duct smoke detector to activate an audible and visible signal in an approved location when duct smoke detectors are not connected to a required fire alarm system. Duct smoke detector trouble conditions shall activate an audible or visible signal in an approved location and shall be identified as air duct detector trouble.

Background:

The interpretation and enforcement of this section has not been consistent throughout Central Ohio when determining if a fire alarm panel, installed for the sole purpose of monitoring a required fire suppression system in accordance with Ohio Building Code 903.4, meets the requirements or intent of OMC 606.4.1 Exception # 2.

Memorandum:

In order to create consistency in inspection procedures and compliance with the 2011 OMC, if the designer elects to connect a smoke duct detector to a fire alarm panel used for the sole purpose of monitoring a fire suppression system and the panel is installed in accordance with the building code then OMC requirements would be met. The Mechanical Inspector will verify that the duct detector is connected to a fire alarm system. If the duct smoke detector is not connected to a fire alarm system, the "stand-alone" requirements must be met. The Structural Inspector will inspect the fire alarm system in accordance with established procedures.