



**MD • DC • VA Automatic Fire Alarm Association**

MD-DC-VA AFAA  
Sterling Leon, Secretary  
c/o JATC, L.U. 26, IBEW  
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May 6, 2002,

To: All MD-DC-VA AFAA Members

RE: Highlighting of drawings for D.C. submittals.

Members,

This letter is being written to inform you of a response from Mr. Sydney Lester, Chief of DCRA Fire Protection Division, in regards to the question: "is highlighting of fire alarm devices still a requirement on submitted drawings".

This question was sent to Mr. Lester by fax on April 17<sup>th</sup> (please see attached letter which was signed and sent on this date). A follow-up call was made on April 19<sup>th</sup> to ascertain if an official response would be forthcoming. Mr. Lester informed me during this phone conversation that it **is not** the policy of DCRA plan reviewers to require highlighting of fire alarm devices on submitted drawings. He asked me if I had a particular job that had been rejected because the devices were not highlighted. My response was that I had not had one recently, but that some members of our organization had, and that a written clarification on this policy would be greatly appreciated. He then reiterated that highlighting of devices **is not** required, that he had spoken to his plan reviewers about this topic, and that the only reason that highlighting may have been required was that some drawings were still coming in with electrical devices and circuits shown. I thanked him and our conversation ended.

Mr. Lester was faxed a copy of this letter and attachment and was contacted by phone on May 6, 2002. He confirmed that he agrees with the following statement and feels that no official response is necessary. Please accept this explanatory letter as a clarification on this subject:

**"Highlighting of fire alarm devices on submitted floor plans is not required if fire alarm devices are the only devices shown."**

As we in this organization are well aware, the only types of drawings acceptable for fire alarm submittals to DCRA are drawings depicting fire alarm devices only. This would mean that highlighting is no longer required.

Please don't hesitate to bring any further questions or problems due to this issue to the attention of the Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Sterling D. Leon, E.T.  
Secretary  
MD-DC-VA-AFAA



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April 17, 2002

Mr. Sydney Lester, Chief  
Fire Protection Division  
BLRA/DCRA  
941 North Capitol Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

RE: Fire Alarm submittal procedures

Mr. Lester,  
I am writing on behalf of the MD-DC-VA-AFAA membership concerning a question in regards to proper fire alarm submittal procedures. The question is:

**“Is the highlighting of devices on the floor plans still a requirement when submitting plans for review?”**

It seems that this was required in the past, before the change in policy to accept drawings with fire alarm devices only. The requirement seemed appropriate at that time because drawings were being submitted with electrical devices and circuitry shown and there could be some confusion as to which devices were fire alarm related and which devices were not. With the new policy that mandates only fire alarm devices to be plotted on the submitted drawings, it would seem that there should not be much, if any; confusion as to what is a fire alarm device and what is not. Hence, the question- is the highlighting still required?

We would very much appreciate an official response in writing to our question. A clarification on this policy would clear up quite a few questions from our membership.

Respectfully,

Sterling D. Leon, E.T.  
Secretary  
**MD-DC-VA-AFAA**