

Subject 864

June 1, 2007

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS on extending the Effective Date for the Supervision Requirements of Section 56.2 of the 9th Edition of UL 864, the Standard for Control Units and Accessories for Fire Alarm Systems, to June 30, 2012

Comments Due: **July 2, 2007**

Section 56 of UL 864 delineates requirements with respect to a combination fire alarm system, that is a fire alarm system whose components might be used, in whole or in part, in common with a non-fire alarm signaling system such as smoke control, security, process monitoring, non-fire paging, or building automation. One of the specific requirements involves the need for the fire alarm system to maintain supervision requirements during identified fault conditions. Paragraph 56.2 reads:

56.2 To determine compliance with 56.1, the operation, removal, replacement, failure, or maintenance procedure on any hardware, software, or circuit not performing any of the fire alarm system functions shall not cause loss of any of the fire alarm functions, including supervision, or prevent required alarm, supervisory, trouble, or fire-safety annunciation, signaling, or actuation

The above paragraph is intended to harmonize with section 6.8.4.3 of the National Fire Alarm Code, NFPA 72 –2002, which reads:

6.8.4.3 Short circuits, open circuits, or grounds in this equipment or between this equipment and the fire alarm system wiring shall not interfere with the monitoring for integrity of the fire alarm system or prevent alarm, supervisory, or fire safety control signal transmissions.

One of the outcomes of maintaining supervision, or monitoring for integrity, is that the operation of the fire alarm system meet the monitoring for integrity requirements stipulated in section 51, Common Performance and Monitoring for Integrity, of UL 864 (corresponding to section 4.4.7, Monitoring Integrity, of NFPA 72-2002) during the time a ground fault exists on non-fire alarm field wiring. For example, during the time a single ground fault exists on a non-fire initiating circuit per 56.2, the application of a single ground on a fire initiating device circuit should result in trouble annunciation rather than alarm annunciation.



UL has identified that most combination systems do not meet this requirement and that manufacturers will need considerable time to design and modify existing product for compliance. Accordingly, UL is proposing the effective date for meeting the supervision requirement of 56.2 be moved to June 30, 2012.

In conjunction with this extension, UL is also proposing to establish a new Listing category to identify combination systems, which include both fire and non-fire signaling capabilities. Products complying with the requirements of UL 864, section 56 for combination systems, and the other applicable requirements of UL 864, would also be covered under this new category in UL's Certification Directory. This would be in addition to the individual categories for which the product is Listed (such as UOJZ).

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

Please provide your comments on the proposed change of the Effective Date for the supervision requirement of section 56.2 of the 9th edition of UL 864, as well as the proposal for the establishment of a new Fire Alarm Combination System Listing category. Written comments should be sent by regular mail, fax, or e-mail to the attention of Larry Shudak at UL's Northbrook Office. Please reference all correspondence to Subject 864, Section 56.2. If you respond by fax or e-mail, please include your full name and company address to ensure a reply. Please note that comments may be made public.

All comments should be sent to arrive by July 2, 2007. Unless specifically requested to do so, UL will not acknowledge comments indicating concurrence with this proposal. UL will review the responses and issue a subsequent bulletin announcing the outcome.

Thank you in advance for your communication on this topic.

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