

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE



Development Services Division
Community Development Department

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DATE: October 9, 2013

TO: Building Board of Regulation Examiners and Appeals
Appellant – Patricia Dam on behalf of William E. Dam, Sr.

FROM: Sharen Walsh, P. E.
Deputy Director, Development Services & Building Official

SUBJECT: BCF-02 - 2013 Appeal of fire official's decision on fire alarm decibels


The 3-member panel for Electrical Issues, consisted of Serena O'Donnell, Tom Looney, and Skipp Bringmann, met October 9, 2013 to hear the subject appeal. The appeal was a request of a waiver to 65 decibels as the smoke detectors are in each bedroom.

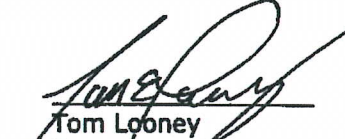
After hearing the presentation of the appellant and staff, the board denied the appeal to waive the 65 decibels sound pressure level. The decision of the Board was based on:

1. The 65 decibel requirement is for the building fire alarm system, a required life safety system essential to notify occupants of a fire. Without proper notification some occupants may not evacuate the building in time to escape a fire.
2. While the appellant provided information on other life safety equipment (unit smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, etc) none perform the same function as the building fire alarm system, and therefore were not sufficient as an alternate means of complying with the Code requirement.

The department will honor the decision; however, Ms. Dam commented she would file with the Supreme Court.

- Chapter 23.45. Local Amendments to the International fire code 2009 edition, subsection 23.45.4603.6, Fire Alarm systems, amends section 4603.6 of the 2009 IFC by adding the following to the end of the exception, "...meeting the minimum sound pressure levels: 65dBa in occupancies on Group R and I-1; and 60dBa in other occupancies."
- The 2009 IFC Section 107, Maintenance, states under sub paragraph 107.1, Maintenance of Safeguards, that "whenever of wherever any device, equipment, system, condition, arrangement, level of protection or any other feature is required for compliance with the provision of this code, or otherwise installed, such device, equipment, system, condition, arrangement, level of protection, or other feature shall thereafter be continuously maintained in accordance with this code and applicable referenced standards."


Serena O'Donnell
Date: 10/14/13


Tom Looney
Date: 10/14/13


Skipp Bringmann
Date: 10-16-13