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Administrative Ruling – M.G.L. c. 146 section 81

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A section 8, the following is a ruling with respect to the definition of the word “inspection”, and “test” as used in Massachusetts General Law Chapter 146 section 81 as it applies to sprinkler systems.

For the purposes of enforcing Massachusetts General Law Chapter 146 section 81, the term “inspection”, as used in relation to sprinkler systems is hereby defined as “documented visual observation or testing of a fire protection system required to be performed on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annual basis that impares or disables the system. Such inspections include the periodic physical checkes on fire protection systems such as water flow tests, firepumps, alarms and trips of dry pipe deluge or preaction valves. Inspections must be performed by a duly licensed Fire Protection Sprinkler Contractor Company. Individual employees performing the inspection under the employ of a Fire Protection Sprinkler Contractor are not required to hold a license, however it is strongly recommended.

“Routine surveillance”, is the daily or weekly monitoring of a fire protection sprinkler system, by the owner or their employee, whereby the system is not impaired and may include the verification of valve position.

“Testing”, is the visual observation of a fire protection sprinkler system by any individual that does not impair or disable the fire protection system.

All repairs of a fire protection sprinkler system must be performed by duly licensed Massachusetts Sprinklerfitters. There is no exemption under the law for this work and unlicensed individuals may not work under another persons license.

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