

Generally, the version numbers are recorded on the permanently attached diagram in the Fire Alarm Control Unit (FACU) and on the as-built record drawings for the system. The Record of Completion required in Chapter 4 (see Figure 4.5.2.1) must show the current software version installed. A record copy of the actual site-specific software must also be provided in accordance with paragraph 4.5.2.3 and paragraph 10.6.1.2.

6.2.2.2* All software and firmware shall be protected from unauthorized changes.



A.6.2.2.2 A commonly used method of protecting against unauthorized changes can be described as follows (in ascending levels of access):

- (1) *Access Level 1.* Access by persons who have a general responsibility for safety supervision, and who might be expected to investigate and initially respond to a fire alarm or trouble signal
- (2) *Access Level 2.* Access by persons who have a specific responsibility for safety, and who are trained to operate the control unit
- (3) *Access Level 3.* Access by persons who are trained and authorized to do the following:
 - (a) Reconfigure the site-specific data held within the control unit, or controlled by it
 - (b) Maintain the control unit in accordance with the manufacturer's published instructions and data
- (4) *Access Level 4.* Access by persons who are trained and authorized either to repair the control unit or to alter its site-specific data or operating system program, thereby changing its basic mode of operation

As required in paragraph 6.2.2.2, the software and firmware must be protected from unauthorized use. A single programming change may affect operation of the entire fire alarm system.

6.2.2.3 All changes shall be tested in accordance with 10.4.1.2.

If the authority having jurisdiction examines a fire alarm control unit and finds a version of software or firmware that is different from the version installed at the time of the acceptance test, the results of the reacceptance test required by paragraph 10.4.1.2 should be reviewed.

6.2.3 Nonrequired (Voluntary) Systems.

Nonrequired systems, addressed in subsection 6.2.3, are those that are installed to meet specific performance criteria desired by the owner. The building code, fire code, or other NFPA standards may not mandate this performance. However, there is a need to document the intended performance so that the authority having jurisdiction can approve the final installation. Nonrequired systems that do not meet the requirements of the Code can create a false sense of security among occupants who think they are protected by a code-compliant fire alarm system. It is important to understand that the term *nonrequired system* and the term *supplementary* have different meanings and are not interchangeable. Refer to the definitions for these terms in subsection 3.3.111 and subsection 3.3.197.

The requirements of subsection 6.2.3 do not mean that a building owner who wants to install a fire alarm system in a particular area of a building for property protection must install a complete fire alarm system throughout the building. For example, if a building owner installs a fire detection and alarm system in a computer room for protection of the computer equipment, that system would have to meet the requirements of the Code. Documenting the rationale and design basis of the system is critical. Otherwise an authority having jurisdiction may see the fire alarm system installed in the computer room and, not understanding that it was installed for a specific property protection purposes, may require the installation of additional devices and equipment throughout the building.

6.2.3.1 Nonrequired protected premises systems shall meet the requirements of this Code.

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