UL 38

STANDARD FOR SAFETY

Manual Signaling Boxes for Fire Alarm Systems

UL Standard for Safety for Manual Signaling Boxes for Fire Alarm Systems, UL 38

Eighth Edition, Dated July 3, 2008

Summary of Topics

This revision of ANSI/UL 38 is being issued to reflect the reaffirmation of the ANSI approval of the Standard. No technical changes have been made to the document.

Text that has been changed in any manner or impacted by UL's electronic publishing system is marked with a vertical line in the margin.

The requirements are substantially in accordance with Proposal(s) on this subject dated July 13, 2018.

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Standard for Manual Signaling Boxes for Fire Alarm Systems

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Second Edition – December, 1969
Third Edition – March, 1974
Fourth Edition – July, 1981
Fifth Edition – June, 1987
Sixth Edition – January, 1994
Seventh Edition – March, 1999

Eighth Edition

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This ANSI/UL Standard for Safety consists of the Eighth Edition including revisions through September 4, 2018.

The most recent designation of ANSI/UL 38 as a Reaffirmed American National Standard (ANS) occurred on September 4, 2018. ANSI approval for a standard does not include the Cover Page, Transmittal Pages, and Title Page.

Comments or proposals for revisions on any part of the Standard may be submitted to UL at any time. Proposals should be submitted via a Proposal Request in UL's On-Line Collaborative Standards Development System (CSDS) at https://csds.ul.com.

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INTRODUCTION

1 Scope

1.1 These requirements cover manual signaling boxes for fire alarm systems intended for permanent installation and used in ordinary locations in accordance with the National Electrical Code, NFPA 70, and the National Fire Alarm Code, NFPA 72.

1.2 A manual signaling box is an assembly of a mechanism having electrical contacts designed to transmit a signal when an integral part is operated manually. The signaling contacts are intended to be connected to circuits of fire alarm systems. The types of boxes covered by these requirements are coded boxes and non-coded boxes, including signaling boxes, fire and guard's tour reporting stations, and guard's tour reporting stations for suppressed-signal tour combinations.

1.3 A manual signaling box having a pre-wound signaling mechanism and equipped with a tripping electromagnet to permit automatic actuation by separate detectors, and similar combination devices, shall be evaluated with regard to compliance with the applicable requirements for both manual signaling boxes and electrically-actuated transmitters.

1.4 A manual signaling box shall be constructed for use with system-control units, electrically-actuated transmitters, or similar units that will permit its application in compliance with applicable codes and standards of the National Fire Protection Association.

1.5 These requirements do not cover electrically-actuated transmitters.

2 General

2.1 Components

2.1.1 Except as indicated in 2.1.2, a component of a product covered by this standard shall comply with the requirements for that component. See Appendix A for a list of standards covering components used in the products covered by this standard.

2.1.2 A component is not required to comply with a specific requirement that:

a) Involves a feature or characteristic not required in the application of the component in the product covered by this standard, or

b) Is superseded by a requirement in this standard.

2.1.3 A component shall be used in accordance with its rating established for the intended conditions of use.

2.1.4 Specific components are incomplete in construction features or restricted in performance capabilities. Such components are intended for use only under limited conditions, such as certain temperatures not exceeding specified limits, and shall be used only under those specific conditions.

2.2 Units of measurement

2.2.1 Values stated without parentheses are the requirement. Values in parentheses are explanatory or approximate information.

2.3 Undated references

2.3.1 Any undated reference to a code or standard appearing in the requirements of this standard shall be interpreted as referring to the latest edition of that code or standard.

CONSTRUCTION

3 Enclosures

3.1 General

3.1.1 Electrical parts of a signaling box shall be located or enclosed so as to provide protection against contact with uninsulated live parts.

3.1.2 Operating parts, such as contacts, gear mechanisms, and similar devices, shall be protected against mechanical damage and fouling by dust or other material that may impair their intended operation.

3.1.3 Provision shall be made for mounting a signaling box in position. Bolts, screws, or other parts used for mounting a signaling box shall be independent of those used for securing component parts of the assembly.

3.1.4 An opening for a winding shaft or similar part shall not be larger than is necessary (with sufficient clearance) for the intended operation of the signaling box.

3.1.5 Except as noted in 3.1.6, a signaling box intended for either flush or surface mounting in a back box shall be provided with a back box that has provision for the connection of metal-clad cable or conduit. A back box without provision for the connection of metal-clad cable or conduit may be used if:

a) Definite instructions are furnished with the box indicating the sections of the unit that are intended to be drilled in the field for the connection of raceways or

b) The unit is intended for mounting on an outlet box.

3.1.6 A signaling box is not required to be furnished with a back box if:

a) Means for attachment to a standard outlet box are provided and

b) The spacings required in this standard are provided while the signaling box is mounted in such a back box.

See Spacings, Section 10.