



UL 38

STANDARD FOR SAFETY

Manual Signaling Boxes for Fire Alarm Systems

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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 dated June 18, 2025 includes a Measurement Conversion Correction; [20.5](#)

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

The revised requirements are substantially in accordance with Proposal(s) on this subject dated May 16, 2025.

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The most recent designation of ANSI/UL 38 as an American National Standard (ANSI) occurred on June 18, 2025. 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 ULSE at any time. Proposals should be submitted via a Proposal Request in ULSE's 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.