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**OUR GOAL IS TO
COMPLETE ALL PLAN
REVIEWS WITHIN
10 BUSINESS DAYS**

FALL 2022 QUARTERLY REVIEW



**BUILDING
PLAN REVIEW**



**FIRE SAFETY
PLAN REVIEW**



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SERVICES**

RECOMMEND FOR APPROVAL: NEWS FROM FSCI

An FSCI update from Brent Gooden, Senior Vice President

A lot has been happening this year here at FSCI. In the beginning of the year, we rolled our new electronic plan review services out to a small number of clients. Over the course of a few months, we had many clients requesting to use this new service. At that same time, most of our plan reviewers were provided with new computer equipment to help them perform plan reviews electronically as opposed to reviewing paper plans on a drafting table. The demand for this new service has continued to increase and in August, FSCI received more plan reviews submitted electronically than we had in any other month this year. We continue to add more clients to our electronic plan review system every day! Currently our electronic plan review service is being offered to all clients and customers. If you are interested in hearing more about this new electronic plan review service, please contact us at info@firesafetyfsci.com.

In June of this year, Keith Frangiamore retired from FSCI. Keith was with FSCI since 2004 and took charge of the overall operations of the company as president in 2013. Over the years, Keith always made the decisions and acted in the best interest of FSCI. All of us here at FSCI would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation for all that Keith has done to make us successful over these many years.

In June, I was honored to accept the position of Senior Vice President with FSCI and I am excited to work towards providing the best service for our clients and customers. I am very lucky to have smart, experienced, hardworking people that I am surrounded with here at FSCI. In 2008, I was hired by FSCI as a Fire Safety Plan Reviewer and during my time with the company have held positions of Manager of the Michigan Regional office, Supervisor of the Field Services Department, and leader of our marketing committee. I hold a bachelor's degree in Business, NICET certification in water-based layout and fire alarms, and ICC certification as a Plans Examiner. I am looking forward to working with our valued clients and customers.



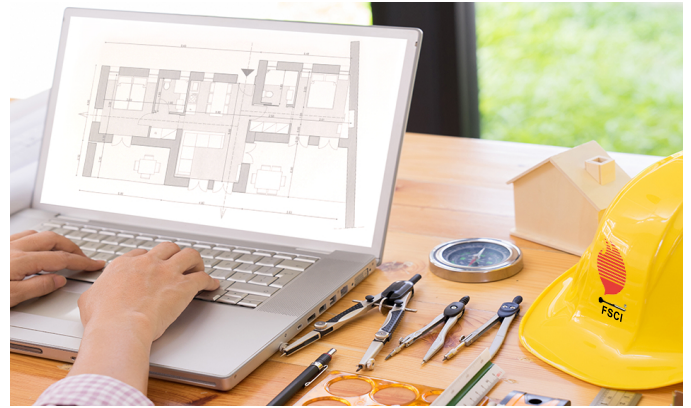
ELECTRONIC AND STANDARD FIRE PROTECTION SUBMITTALS

Ryan Case, Fire Protection Consultant

As one of the largest, national, third-party provider of plan review services, FSCI would like to take this opportunity to offer assistance for those who submit fire protection plans and specifications for review and approval. This article is a continuation of the article we published in our Fall 2020 newsletter "Fire Protection Plan Review – Getting Your Plans Approved the First Time" and will include details on some new services that we are offering. Excitingly, in 2022 FSCI has been offering electronic plan review services and in this article are some helpful tips for a successful submittal.

The first thing the submitting contractor should do is ensure that they know what editions of the codes and standards have been adopted by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) for the jurisdiction that they are submitting plans for. The AHJ could be the state or the local jurisdiction, or a combination of the two where local code adoptions and amendments are permitted. The determination on when a sprinkler and/or fire alarm system is required come from the adopted building and fire codes, or possibly from local amendments. Also, it should not be assumed that the NFPA standards edition referenced by the building or fire code are the editions that have been adopted by the jurisdiction. Some jurisdictions will adopt newer versions as they are published. The bottom line is that it is important for system designers to research and reference all of the relevant adopted codes, standards, and local amendments before proceeding with the system design. Codes require that the designers of systems be qualified to do so. Some states require sprinkler and alarm contractors to be licensed. Other states and local jurisdictions have adopted specific qualification requirements, such as PE, FPE, or a particular level of NICET certification. For example, in Illinois, a PE or FPE is required to prepare a technical submittal for new sprinkler systems in which they identify the hazards to be protected, design density requirements and general design specifications. The detailed shop drawings and hydraulic calculations can be prepared by a designer with NICET Level III or IV certification. In any jurisdiction, evidence of the designer's qualifications, such as a PE or FPE stamp, or NICET certification information are to be included on the drawings.

Now that FSCI has implemented an electronic plan review process things have become much more



streamlined. Not all jurisdictions will accept electronic plan review so in that case paper hard copies are still required. When submitting paper copies of plans, find out how many sets of documents the jurisdiction requires. Complete sets include the drawings, equipment technical data sheets, required calculations, and any other pertinent information regarding the specific project. A reviewer having to chase down additional documents only adds time to the process; this is one of the ways that electronic plan review helps to streamline the process. When submitting plans electronically, the submitter would log into FSCI's goPost portal and upload the required drawings and other supporting documentation. The FSCI intake department would then receive an email stating that a document has been uploaded. After receiving the email, the intake department would go through the formal intake process for the submittal. Through the goPost portal you, as the submitting contractor, can check the status of the submittal and have access to the stamped plans when finished.

Here are some additional items to be included in a list format, starting with requirements that are common to both sprinkler and alarm submittals and followed by some specifics for each type:

General Requirements

- Plans with multiple sheets are to be numbered, dated, collated, and stapled or bound
- Plans must be drawn to a standard architectural scale (minimum 1/8" = 1')
- A scope of work statement outlining details of the project
- Plans must show project name and complete address
- The square foot area of the building must be noted on the plans

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LITTLE KNOWN FACTS

NFPA 13, Special Sprinklers for Horizontal Combustible Concealed Sprinklers

There are many code sections in NFPA 13 dedicated to the requirements for sprinkler protection and the omission of sprinklers in combustible concealed spaces. One section that has been often overlooked now has its own section in the 2022 edition. Section 9.3.2 states that when you have a combustible concealed space where the depth of the space is less than 36 inches from deck to deck, deck to ceiling, or between the top of the bottom joist and bottom of the upper joist, the sprinklers used in the space shall be specifically listed for protection of combustible concealed spaces. In this instance the specifically listed sprinklers are required to be utilized, however, the listed sprinklers can be used in other configurations of combustible concealed spaces as brought out in the sections provided under 9.3.2.

- Hannah Rodriguez, Fire Safety Consultant

NFPA 13D

The field of residential sprinkler protection is evolving with the different designs of the houses being built. One aspect of the design central to the protection of piping in exposed basements, is the riser location and protection required for the assembly. Risers located in crawl spaces with exposed joists, concealed behind an access panel hatch are considered concealed spaces not considered areas for living purposes as stated in NFPA 13D (2019 edition) section 8.3.5. Risers can be provided with a pendent sprinkler for protection as long as the area can be considered concealed. Risers in unfinished basements whether open to the rest of the basement or behind a closet with full height doors, still require the ordinary temperature rated pendent sprinkler as listed for the protection of the assembly.

- Hetul Chokshi, Fire Safety Consultant

Accessibility Code - Door Maneuvering Clearances

One of the most overlooked accessibility code requirements is the minimum maneuvering clearances at doors and gates. Clearances shall extend the full width of the doorway and the required latch side or hinge sided clearance. There are differences between manual swinging doors and sliding or folding doors. The approach direction (from front, hinge, or the latch side) and where to approach the door (pull or push side) must be established. The minimum clearance dimensions are determined based on a perpendicular approach (minimum of 42 to 60 inches) or parallel approach (minimum of 0 to 42 inches) to the doorway. A swinging door with a closer and/or latch would create additional factors that will change the required clearances. Entry doors to hospital patient rooms are exempt from the required clearances.

The specific clearance requirements, with pictorial layouts can be found in the 2018 Illinois Accessibility Code; Tables 404.2.4.1 and 404.2.4.2 for manual swinging and sliding/folding doors and gates respectively. The requirements can also be found in ICC A117.19 – 2009 and 2017; Tables 404.2.3.2 and 404.2.3.3.

- Totie L. Leonardo, Building, Life Safety Senior Consultant



SEMINAR INFORMATION

Keep you and your staff up to date on the latest Fire, Building and Life Safety code changes and equipment by attending one of our seminars. Fire Safety Consultants, Inc. is teaching seminars throughout the United States, led by our experienced staff of Matt Davis, Mike Carnduff, Brent Gooden & Warren Olsen. Whether you are a Contractor, Architect, Technician, Engineer or an Authority Having Jurisdiction, each seminar is full of practical insight and first-hand experiences to help you comply with applicable codes and standards. Fire Safety Consultants, Inc. can also provide custom seminars at your location. Be sure to check out our [website](#) to view our listing of available seminars or to check the schedule to see what we are teaching next! Contact us to learn more by emailing info@firesafetyfsci.com or by calling our corporate office at (847) 697-1300.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Marla VanDurme

If you have called Fire Safety Consultants Inc. recently, you have probably spoken with our newest administrative assistant, Marla VanDurme. She started at FSCI in October of 2021 and has been trained and taken responsibility for editing fire protection and building code plan review letters. Her strong customer service experience, organizational skills and work ethic have already been an asset to our company. Before FSCI, Marla worked as a part time passport acceptance agent and receptionist for Hanover Township and as a manager for a non-profit agency in Elgin, IL. Marla is married with 4 children and 1 grandchild. During her personal time, she enjoys traveling with her family, entertaining at home, and playing with the family dog.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT NEWS

We would like to congratulate a few of our employees on great achievements since our last newsletter! Ryan Case received his NICET level 1 certification in Inspection and Testing of Fire Alarm Systems. Greg Bartels received his NICET level 1 certification in Inspection and Testing of Water-Based Systems. Congratulations Ryan and Greg!



WE'RE LISTENING!

Tell us what you are interested in learning about!
Email us at: info@firesafetyfsci.com