

## CWSI 520Hz Notification

**Q:** What is the NFPA 72 low frequency signal requirement?

**A:** NFPA 72: 2010 and 2013 Edition’s low frequency signal requirement was created to address people in sleeping areas. The new requirement has two portions to the code. Mandated by NFPA 72 Chapters 18 and 24 to provide notification in sleeping areas that are not staffed and Chapter 29 for individuals with hearing disabilities, the low frequency tone has been added to the standard.

**Q:** Why did NFPA add the 520Hz to the 72 Standards?

**A:** Recent data demonstrated a high percentage of elderly and young hearing impaired deaths were due to household fires where smoke alarms were functioning properly but people were not awakened during the incident. A study was commissioned to identify characteristics of alarm signals most effective in awakening individuals, regarding of hearing acuity, age, blood alcohol levels or other factors. The end result showed the lower frequency signals were most effective in awakening individuals, at a higher rate than the standard high pitch.

**Q:** When did the code go into effect?

**A:** The code was instated on January 1, 2014.

**Q:** What is the CWSI 520Hz solution?

**A:** The CWSI 520Hz is the first wireless appliance to be released in the industry. Compared to competitive 520Hz appliances, the CWSI solution does not incur additional power draw, therefore to make a facility compliant with the new standards does not impact the overall project cost. A new wireless mini horn is also part of the product offering and offers extended battery life up to 6 years, with simultaneous syncing to units.

**Q:** What are the features of the CWSI 520Hz solution?

**A:** New addressable wall mounted appliances are ready to order, with a UL approved 520Hz square wave. The addressable devices have the capacity to program optional settings directly at the device or at the panel.

For additional information regarding CWSI products, please visit [www.cwsifire.com](http://www.cwsifire.com)

### Here is a quick reference guide to clarify the requirements:

Building Type	Chapter 29 Applies	Chapter 18 Applies
Single-family Residence	Yes	No
Multi-family Residence	Yes	No
Condominium	Yes	No
Dormitory	Yes	Yes
Hospital	No	No
Hotel/Motel	Yes	Yes
Retirement/Assisted Living Facility (with 7 x 24 on-site trained staff)	No	No
Retirement/Assisted Living Facility (without 7 x 24 on-site trained staff)	Yes	Yes