

Clark County, NV – Mandated Public Safety Radio Coverage

Clark County, NV recently sent a letter to “selected Resort High-Rise hotels” in Clark County (Las Vegas Area) requiring they perform public safety radio coverage testing and **provide a written report to the Fire Chief’s office no later than January 1, 2019, and with plans to require that existing building have in-building public safety radio coverage by July 1, 2020.**

Excerpt from The Letter:

(Complete letter available at www.saferbuildings.org -> Resources -> Useful Links -> Clark County)

[Preface: Discussion of the in-building coverage problem] ...

... To address these issues, I have turned to the Clark County Fire Code, specifically Section 510 titled "Emergency Responder Radio Coverage System." A copy of this particular section has been attached to this letter. Sub-section 510.2 addresses the radio system needs in existing buildings. As outlined in the Code Section 510.2, I am requesting you provide a radio strength study via email to me for evaluation. I will review the study with the "fire code official" who is Jerry Stueve, Director of Clark County Department of Building and Fire Prevention.

Knowing many of the properties in our area of responsibility have renovations already planned, or are in the concept phase, this seems like a good time to have this study done. This will allow for the results of the study to drive the upgrades and installations of systems that are needed to comply with the code.

Please have the radio strength study completed and returned to us by 1 January 2019. To do so please email the results to: [email addresses provided].

In order to provide the opportunity for properties to budget and complete any upgrades or system installations that are required to meet compliance with this code, 1 July 2020 has been selected as the date for compliance. [SBC Emphasis]

If you feel your property or properties are already in compliance with this code, please respond back in writing to the two email addresses above. In that email, please provide any documentation of previous radio-strength studies performed and/or installation of components to support an operable responder radio system.

Fire Chief, Clark County, NV

CODE EXCERPTS

IFC 104.7.2 Technical Assistance

To determine the acceptability of technologies, processes, products, facilities, materials and uses attending the design, operation or use of a building or premises subject to inspection by the *fire code official*, the *fire code official* is authorized to require the *owner* or *owner’s* authorized agent to provide, without charge to the jurisdiction, a technical opinion and report. The opinion and report shall be prepared by a qualified engineer, specialist, laboratory or fire safety specialty organization acceptable to the *fire code official* and shall analyze the fire safety properties of the design, operation or use of the building or premises and the facilities and appurtenances situated thereon, to recommend necessary changes. The *fire code official* is authorized to require design submittals to be prepared by, and bear the stamp of, a registered design professional.

Clark County, NV Amendments to IFC 510

(saferbuildings.org -> Resources -> Useful Links -> Clark County)

SECTION 510 - EMERGENCY RESPONDER RADIO COVERAGE SYSTEM

510.1 Emergency responder radio coverage in buildings. All buildings shall have approved radio coverage for emergency responders within the building based upon the existing coverage levels of the public safety communications systems of the jurisdiction at the exterior of the building. System design shall be in accordance with this section and Appendix J. This section shall not require improvement of the existing public safety communication systems outside the building.

510.1.2 Emergency responder radio coverage system in new buildings. An emergency responder radio coverage system shall be provided throughout buildings when any of the following apply:

1. High-rise buildings. Buildings with a floor used for human occupancy located more than 55 feet above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access.
2. Underground and below grade buildings. Buildings having a floor level below the finished floor of the lowest level of exit discharge of any level. The fire code official is authorized to require a technical opinion and report, in accordance with Section 104.7.2, for buildings whose design, due to size, construction type, or other factors, could impede radio coverage as required by Section 510.2. The report shall make a recommendation regarding the need for an emergency responder radio coverage system.

See Also:

510.2 Radio signal strength.

- 510.2.1 Minimum signal strength into the building.
- 510.3 Emergency responder radio coverage in existing buildings.