

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202  
919-647-0000**

**Small Licensed Residential Care Facilities Fire Alarm Panel**

**Code:** 2012 Building Code  
**Section:** 425.3.7

**Date:** September 22, 2017

**Question:**

Does Section 425.3.7 of the Building Code require a commercial fire alarm panel for small licensed residential care facilities?

**Answer:**

No. The system installed must be listed for the use and able to provide all the functions required by the Building Code including but not limited to smoke detection, heat detection, manual pull stations, sprinkler water flow, sprinkler supervisory and occupant notification. Household Alarm Systems listed to UL 985 6<sup>th</sup> edition are listed for these functions.

UL 985 6<sup>th</sup> edition is the first edition of the standard to test for sprinkler water flow and sprinkler supervisory, sections 41.1.16 and 41.1.17, respectively. Household Alarm Systems listed to earlier editions of UL 985 may provide those functions, but are not tested by UL. If such a system is capable of providing sprinkler water flow and sprinkler supervisory and is not UL tested for the functions, it is acceptable to approve the panel as an “alternate method” provided the permit holder or his designee is able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the local Fire Official that the panel provides those functions.

**Keywords:**

Child, Children, monitoring