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MEMORANDUM

TO: Technical Committee on Supervising Station Fire Alarm and Signaling Systems

FROM: Jenny Depew, *Committee Administrator*

DATE: January 17, 2024

SUBJECT: NFPA 72 Proposed Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA) No. 1770

The attached proposed Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA) Log No. 1770 is being submitted to you for ballot on Sections 26.6.4.2.4.1 and A.26.6.4.2.4.1 of the 2025 edition of NFPA 72. This proposed TIA was submitted by Christopher Creamer, of UL Solutions, and we have received written agreement to the processing of the submitted TIA from Charles Mason, of Jensen Hughes, and Glen Schroeder, of GLS Strategies, LLC.

This proposed TIA will be published for public comment in the January/February 2024 issues of *NFPA News* with a Public Comment Closing Date of February 29, 2024. Any public comments received will be circulated to the committee. Finally, the Standards Council will review and consider the issuance of this TIA.

In accordance with Section 5 of the *Regulations Governing the Development of NFPA Standards*, you are being balloted on the technical merits of the proposed TIA and whether this matter is of an emergency nature.

The ballot can be accessed through the NFPA online ballot system at the following link: [NFPA Ballot Link](#). The link will bring you to your profile page. Once you sign in, scroll down to where it says 'Committees' and click on the Vote button which will direct you to the ballot site.

Please complete the ballot on or before **January 31, 2024, 11:59 pm ET.**

While completing your ballot, please remember the following:

- **A comment is required for both Question No. 1 and Question No. 2 for the online TIA ballot. Comments must accompany all Negative, Abstaining and Agree votes.**
- **If you vote "Agree" on Question 1, simply add "Agree" to the comment field and if you vote "Agree" on Question 2, insert the applicable letter(s) selections in the comment field which can be found in the Instructions box on the ballot site.**

You must hit SUBMIT to SAVE your work. **Note:** the system session will time you out after 45 minutes; any work not submitted at that time will not be saved! You may return to finish or change your ballot at any time up to the closing date. Ballot comments exceeding 4,000 characters must be submitted in a Word document via email, to Jenny Depew at jdepew@nfpa.org.

Note: Please remember that the return of ballots and attendance at committee meetings are required in accordance with the Regulations Governing the Development of NFPA Standards.

NFPA 72®-Proposed 2025 Edition

National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code®

TIA Log No.: 1770

Reference: 26.6.4.2.4.1, A.26.6.4.2.4.1 (new)

Comment Closing Date: February 29, 2024

Submitter: Christopher Creamer, UL Solutions

www.nfpa.org/72

1. Revise 26.6.4.2.4.1 to read as follows:

26.6.4.2.4.1* A system employing a DACT ~~that uses shall employ~~ a single legacy POTS telephone line (number) shall also include and one of the following transmission means channels:

- (1) One-way private radio alarm system
- (2) Transmission means complying with 26.6.3
- (3) A second telephone line (number), where all of the following conditions are met:
 - a. Access to one of the technologies in 26.6.4.2.4.1(1); or 26.6.4.2.4.1(2); ~~or 26.6.4.2.4.1(3)~~ is not available at the protected premises.
 - b. The AHJ approves the arrangement.
 - c. The DACT is programmed to call a second DACR line (number) when the signal transmission sequence to the first called line (number) is unsuccessful.
 - d. The DACT is capable of selecting the operable means of transmission in the event of failure of the other means.
 - e. Each telephone line is tested in accordance with 26.6.4.2.4.2 or at alternating 6-hour intervals.

2. Add a new A.26.6.4.2.4.1 to read as follows:

A.26.6.4.2.4.1 The requirements in 26.6.4.2.4 are not intended to prevent a system using a DACT from employing two transmission channels from a managed facilities-based voice network (MFVN) in accordance with 26.6.4.2.1.

Substantiation: Upon completion of the Second Draft Meeting, a task group was formed to review the language for this code section. The intent of this change was to identify the lower reliability of legacy “dialup” telephone lines and that there should be consideration to use a different means of communication, where possible, should the arrange exist. As balloted in the second draft, the reader may view a fire alarm system employing a DACT to have an analog “plain old telephone line”. For at least the past few years, a “legacy POTS” telephone line is now operating in its pathway, as an MFVN line within the pathway and converting back to an analog line at the protected premise. Additionally, annex material was added to identify that a DACT may include MFVN transmission channels and be considered a DACT. A task group of 14 Chapter 26 TC members worked on the working in creating this TIA ahead of a Committee Ballot.

Emergency Nature: The standard contains an error or an omission that was overlooked during the regular revision process. The proposed TIA intends to correct a circumstance in which the revised NFPA Standard has resulted in an adverse impact on a product or method that was

inadvertently overlooked in the total revision process or was without adequate technical (safety) justification for the action.

SR 5138 as it is currently worded could cause significant confusion among facilities that employ a DACT. Without the approval of this TIA, a building owner, alarm service company, and or authority having jurisdiction may interpret an MFVN could not be used as a telephone line transmission as its not a “legacy POTS’ line. The intent of this change was to identify the lower reliability of legacy “dialup” telephone lines and that there are should be consideration to use a different means of communication, where possible, should the arrange exist. Additionally annex material was added to identify that a DACT may include MFVN transmission channels and be considered a DACT. A task group of 14 Chapter 26 TC members worked on the working in creating this TIA ahead of a Committee Ballot.