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MEMO

TO: All Building Officials in Miami-Dade County

FROM: Herminio F. González, P.E., M.S., Director
Building Code Compliance Office

DATE: August 20, 2009

SUBJECT: Pool Exit Alarms

The Building Code Compliance Office has received information relating to pool exit alarms, not operating in the method indicated in the Florida Building Code.

The Florida Building Code, Chapter 4 Section 424.2.17.1.9 (private pools) requires pool exit alarms to comply with UL 2017 with a minimum sound pressure rating of 85 dBA at 10 feet (3048 mm). The exit alarm shall produce a continuous audible warning when the door and its screen are opened. The alarm shall sound immediately after the door is opened and be capable of being heard throughout the house during normal household activities.

Additionally, Section 424.2.17.1.9 requires that pool exit alarms shall be equipped with a manual means to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Such deactivation shall last no more than 15 seconds. The deactivation switch shall be located at least 54 inches (1372 mm) above the threshold of the door. Separate alarms are not required for each door or window if sensors wired to a central alarm sound when contact is broken at any opening.

Compliance with UL 2017 is not an assurance that all aspects of section 424.2.17.1.9 are in compliance. As a consequence, it is important that all pool exit alarms are properly inspected in order to ensure a minimum level of protection for our community.

If you have any questions please contact Mr. Oriol Haage of my staff at (305) 375-2986.