

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. ___ - ___

CODE: 2012 International Fire Code

SECTION: IFC 1103.7, 1103.7.1, Table 1103.1

QUESTION 1: Table 1103.1 suggests in the table that Group E occupancies are required (“R”) to comply with IFC 1103.7.1, and must install an emergency voice alarm communication system in accordance with IFC 907.2.3. However, IFC 1103.7 contains the following exception to the requirement that existing buildings install an approved fire alarm system: “**Exception:** Occupancies with an existing, previously approved fire alarm system.” Reading the table and the exception language together, does the exception language in IFC 1103.7 apply to Group E occupancies? Does normal maintenance and repair of an existing previously approved fire alarm system also fall within this exception?

ANSWER 1 **Yes. Group E educational buildings or structures with an existing, previously approved fire alarm system are not required to comply with IFC 1103.7.1. Normal maintenance and repair of one or more components of an existing, previously approved fire alarm system falls within the exception, and does not trigger a requirement to comply with IFC 1103.7.1.**

REQUESTED BY: _____