

TECHNICAL NOTE

**STANDPIPE-PAC
REQUIRED SUPERVISORY PRESSURE**

UNITED Fire Systems has been repeatedly advised of misunderstandings regarding the supervisory pressure requirements for standpipe systems in New York City. This Technical Note provides clarification of the requirements and how STANDPIPE-PAC provides compliance.

City inspectors and others have been requiring re-adjustment of the STANDPIPE-PAC pressure switches so that the pressure gage reads 25 PSIG. This may result in:

- The actual pressure in the standpipe exceeding 25 PSIG (which is not in accordance with the cited code).
- Nuisance signals if the pressure rises slightly, but does not actually exceed 25 PSIG.

STANDPIPE-PAC has been designed and engineered to meet all requirements of New York City (NYC) Construction Code BC 3303.8.1 (also known as Local Law 64). NYC BC 3303.8.1, paragraph 4.1, states:

Pressure. Pressure shall be maintained in the standpipe and cross connections at all times and shall not exceed 25 psig (172 kPag) by utilizing nitrogen or an air compressor with an air dryer. *The supervisory pressure shall be as determined by a registered design professional (italics added).*

To comply with this requirement, UNITED Fire Systems adjusts the pressure switches on STANDPIPE-PAC to:

- Turn the compressor ON when the pressure falls below 13 PSIG, and OFF when the pressure reaches 18 PSIG.
- Provide a LOW pressure signal at 7 PSIG, and a HIGH pressure signal at 23 PSIG.

Maintaining the pressure between 13 and 18 PSIG should be adequate for supervising the standpipe, and providing prompt signaling if a valve is opened or a portion of the standpipe is removed. Setting the HIGH pressure signal at 23 PSIG (2 PSIG less than the code allows) provides a safety margin accounting for the accuracy of the signal switch and the pressure gage.

Maintaining the safety margins between pressure switch settings provides adequate standpipe supervision without added risk of nuisance signals. Of course, if a *registered design professional* requires different settings, per BC 3303.8.1 paragraph 4.1, UNITED Fire Systems will adjust the switches to comply.

If there are any misunderstandings regarding what the code requires, refer to the STANDPIPE-PAC section of our website to find all of the code language.

www.unitedfiresystems.com/standpipepac/nyc-local-law-64.



This Label Shows Proper Operating Pressures

13 – 18 PSI
Normal and Adequate

DO NOT Adjust Switches
Unless Required By
Registered Design
Professional

**UNITED Fire Systems
STANDPIPE-PAC**

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This literature is provided for informational purposes only. United Fire Protection Corporation assumes no responsibility for the product's suitability for a particular application. The product must be properly applied to perform as intended.