

In-Building Emergency Communications (985)

VCC: 918.1, 918.1.1, 918.1.3, 918.1.2, 918.2

Proponents: Andrew Milliken (amilliken@staffordcountyva.gov)

2018 Virginia Construction Code

Revise as follows:

918.1 General. For localities utilizing public safety wireless communications, dedicated infrastructure to accommodate and perpetuate continuous in-building emergency communication *equipment* to allow *emergency public safety personnel* to send and receive emergency communications shall be provided in new *buildings* and *structures* in accordance with this section.

Exceptions:

1. *Buildings* of Use Groups A-5, I-4, within *dwelling units* of R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, and U.
2. Buildings of Types IV and V *construction* without basements, that are not considered unlimited area *buildings* in accordance with Section 507.
3. Above grade single story buildings of less than 20,000 square feet (1858 m²).
4. *Buildings* or leased spaces occupied by federal, state, or local governments, or the contractors thereof, with security requirements where the *building official* has *approved* an alternative method to provide emergency communication equipment for *emergency public safety personnel*.
5. Where the *owner* provides technological documentation from a qualified individual that the *structure* or portion thereof does not impede emergency communication signals.
6. ~~*Buildings* in *localities* that do not provide the additional communication *equipment* required for the operation of the system.~~

918.1.1 Installation. ~~The *building owner* shall install radiating cable, such as coaxial cable or equivalent. The radiating cable shall be installed in dedicated conduits, raceways, plenums, attics, or roofs, compatible for these specific installations as well as other applicable provisions of this code. The *locality* shall be responsible for the installation of any additional communication *equipment* required for the operation of the system. Where provided, In-building Emergency Communications Coverage Systems shall be designed, installed and tested in accordance with section 510.4 and 510.5 of the International Fire Code. In-building, two-way emergency responder communication coverage within the building shall be based on the existing coverage levels of the public safety communication systems utilized by the jurisdiction, measured at the exterior of the building. This section shall not require improvement of the existing public safety communication systems.~~

918.1.3 Inspection. In accordance with Section 113.3, all installations shall be inspected prior to concealment.

Delete without substitution:

~~**918.1.2 Operations.** The *locality* will assume all responsibilities for the operation and maintenance of the emergency communication *equipment*. The *building owner* shall provide sufficient operational space within the *building* to allow the *locality* access to and the ability to operate in-building emergency communication *equipment*.~~

~~**918.2 Acceptance test.** Upon completion of installation, after providing reasonable notice to the *owner* or their representative, *emergency public safety personnel* shall have the right during normal business hours, or other mutually agreed upon time, to enter onto the property to conduct field tests to verify that the required level of radio coverage is present at no cost to the *owner*. Any noted deficiencies in the installation of the radiating cable or operational space shall be provided in an inspection report to the *owner* or the *owner's* representative.~~

IBEC proposal (965)

VCC: SECTION 918, 918.1, 918.1.1, 918.1.1.1 (New), 918.1.2, 918.1.3, 918.2; IBC@: [F] 2702.2.3

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2018 Virginia Construction Code

SECTION 918

IN-BUILDING EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COVERAGE

918.1 General. For localities utilizing public safety wireless communications, dedicated infrastructure to accommodate and perpetuate continuous in-building emergency communication *equipment* to allow *emergency public safety personnel* to send and receive emergency communications shall be provided in new *buildings* and *structures* in accordance with this section.

Exceptions:

1. *Buildings* of Use Groups A-5, I-4, within *dwelling units* of R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, and U.
2. Buildings of Types IV and V *construction* without basements, that are not considered unlimited area *buildings* in accordance with Section 507.
3. Above grade single story buildings of less than 20,000 square feet (1858 m²).
4. *Buildings* or leased spaces occupied by federal, state, or local governments, or the contractors thereof, with security requirements where the *building official* has *approved* an alternative method to provide emergency communication equipment for *emergency public safety personnel*.
5. Where the *owner* provides technological documentation from a qualified individual that the *structure* or portion thereof does not impede emergency communication signals.
6. *Buildings* in *localities* that do not provide the additional communication *equipment* required for the operation of the system.

Revise as follows:

918.1.1 Installation. ~~In-building two-way emergency responder communication coverage systems shall comply with sections 510.4 and 510.5 of the *International Fire Code*. The *building owner* shall install radiating cable, such as coaxial cable or equivalent. The radiating cable shall be installed in dedicated conduits, raceways, plenums, attics, or roofs, compatible for these specific installations as well as other applicable provisions of this code. The *locality* shall be responsible for the installation of any additional communication *equipment* required for the operation of the system.~~

Add new text as follows:

918.1.1.1 Responsibility. The *building owner* shall install radiating cable, such as coaxial cable or equivalent. The radiating cable shall be installed in dedicated conduits, raceways, plenums, attics, or roofs, compatible for these specific installations as well as other applicable provisions of this code. The *locality* shall be responsible for the installation of any additional communication *equipment* required for the operation of the system.

918.1.2 Operations. The *locality* will assume all responsibilities for the operation and maintenance of the emergency communication *equipment*. The *building owner* shall provide sufficient operational space within the *building* to allow the *locality* access to and the ability to operate in-building emergency communication *equipment*.

918.1.3 Inspection. In accordance with Section 113.3, all installations shall be inspected prior to concealment.

918.2 Acceptance test. Upon completion of installation, after providing reasonable notice to the *owner* or their representative, *emergency public safety personnel* shall have the right during normal business hours, or other mutually agreed upon time, to enter onto the property to conduct field tests to verify that the required level of radio coverage is present at no cost to the *owner*. Any noted deficiencies in the installation of the radiating cable or operational space shall be provided in an inspection report to the *owner* or the *owner's* representative.

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Delete without substitution:

~~[F] 2702.2.3 **Emergency responder communication coverage systems.** Standby power shall be provided for in-building 2-way emergency responder communication coverage systems required in Section 918 and the *International Fire Code*. The standby power supply shall be capable of operating the in-building 2-way emergency responder communication coverage system at 100-percent system operation capacity for a duration of not less than 12 hours.~~