

The Question Is...

**OSHA<sup>®</sup>**

**What about  
OSHA standard  
1910.165?**



**FEDERAL SIGNAL**  
Safety and Security Systems / Industrial

*Advancing security and well being.*



## Meeting OSHA standards for workplace emergency alarm/warning systems— from sirens, bells, horns, public address and intercom, to flash/ steady and strobe lighting.

Federal Signal covers the full range of audible and visual signaling solutions required to address OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Administration) standard 1910.165 governing workplace alarm systems and evacuation procedures. These guidelines are designed to limit the severity of accidents and injuries by ensuring that alarm devices/systems are:

- **in place to alert employees to workplace emergencies;**
- **meet established performance requirements;**
- **and are properly installed and maintained.**

### **Purpose of this standard?**

The purpose of the employee alarm systems standard 1910.165 is to reduce the severity of workplace accidents and injuries by ensuring that alarm systems operate properly and procedures are in place to alert employees to workplace emergencies.

### **Who does this standard apply to?**

OSHA's employee alarm systems standard 29 CFR 1910.165 applies to all employers that use an alarm system to satisfy any OSHA standard that requires employers to provide an early warning for emergency action, or reaction time for employees to safely escape the work place, the immediate work area, or both.

This standard also applies to you if an OSHA standard specifically states that you must install an employee alarm system. For example, some standards that specifically require or reference alarm systems include:

- **29 CFR 1910.37, Maintenance, safeguards, and operational features for exit routes**
- **29 CFR 1910.38, Emergency action plans**
- **29 CFR 1910.66, Powered platforms for building maintenance**
- **29 CFR 1910.106, Flammable and combustible liquids**
- **29 CFR 1910.120, Hazardous waste operations and emergency response**
- **29 CFR 1910.157, Portable fire extinguishers**
- **29 CFR 1910.160, Fixed extinguishing systems, general**
- **29 CFR 1910.161, Fixed extinguishing systems, dry chemical**
- **29 CFR 1910.162, Fixed extinguishing systems, gaseous agent**
- **29 CFR 1910.164, Fire detection systems**

## What are the general requirements?

### 1910.165(b)(1)

The employee alarm system shall provide warning for necessary emergency action as called for in the emergency action plan, or for reaction time for safe escape of employees from the workplace or the immediate work area, or both.

### 1910.165(b)(2)

The employee alarm shall be capable of being perceived above ambient noise or light levels by all employees in the affected portions of the workplace. Tactile devices may be used to alert those employees who would not otherwise be able to recognize the audible or visual alarm.

### 1910.165(b)(3)

The employee alarm shall be distinctive and recognizable as a signal to evacuate the work area or to perform actions designated under the emergency action plan.

### 1910.165(b)(4)

The employer shall explain to each employee the preferred means of reporting emergencies, such as manual pull box alarms, public address systems, radio or telephones. The employer shall post emergency telephone numbers near telephones, or employee notice boards, and other conspicuous locations when telephones serve as a means of reporting emergencies. Where a communication system also serves as the employee alarm system, all emergency messages shall have priority over all non-emergency messages.

### 1910.165(b)(5)

The employer shall establish procedures for sounding emergency alarms in the workplace. For those employers with 10 or fewer employees in a particular workplace, direct voice communication is an acceptable procedure for sounding the alarm provided all employees can hear the alarm. Such workplaces need not have a back-up system.

## Federal Signal meets every standard for integrated mass notification...and then some.

Increasing emphasis on employee safety, particularly as it relates to fire protection and emergency evacuation, continues to energize demand for sophisticated audible and visual warning and mass notification systems. At the same time, agencies such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and the International Fire Code (IFC) are revisiting long-standing codes and standards, and subsequently initiating significant revisions.

To address this need, Federal Signal provides a complete line of voice warning/notification systems designed to meet the various standards covering both selective (intercom) and general (public address) emergency alerting. These systems can be employed in tandem with fire alarm and emergency mass notification systems, and are often used to either supplement or replace sirens, bells, horns and similar evacuation alarm devices. In the event a facility must be evacuated, Federal Signal's speaker-equipped audible systems enable authorized safety personnel to issue both live voice warnings and pre-recorded emergency messages to augment other audible emergency warning signaling.

Federal Signal offers a comprehensive product line developed to meet the emergency alarm system requirements for workplace applications ranging from manufacturing and processing plants, warehouse and distribution operations, institutional facilities such as universities and hospitals, and retail shopping and restaurant venues.

➤ **Total solutions for critical communications.**

For solutions that span your business, turn to Federal Signal. From the world's largest line of critical communications to a global network of distributors, we have the products, people and broad industry perspective to help you integrate and align your entire communications framework into one seamless interoperable solution.



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