

# Emergency Radio Building Amplification System

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify owners, developers, contractors and designers of the new requirements of the Emergency Radio Building Amplification Bylaw.

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*"This information is provided for convenience only and is not in substitution of applicable City Bylaws or Provincial or Federal Codes or laws. You must satisfy yourself that any existing or proposed construction or other works complies with such Bylaws, Codes or other laws."*

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Building permit applications made on or after **2018 May 29** for construction of all **new and additions to "applicable buildings"** have to demonstrate compliance with the City's Emergency Radio Building Amplification Bylaw. The Bylaw requires that the building supports adequate radio coverage for the area-wide public safety communications service provider and the City radio communications network(s), including but not limited to fire services and law enforcement personnel.

"Applicable Building" is defined as a building, other than a single family or two family dwelling, which is constructed of

- reinforced concrete or structural steel, or
- metal cladding, studs and/or flooring, or
- reflective or low-emissivity glass, or
- other materials that attenuate radio signals,

and have:

- a total floor area > 5,000 sq.m., or
- a height > 12 m. from the lowest steel level of the building to the top of the roof, or
- below-grade total floor area > 1,000 sq.m., or
- below-grade floor area > 10 m. below the lowest steel level of the building.

"Total floor area" is defined as the total area of all the floors of a building measured to the extreme outer limits of each floor (and includes areas excluded from the gross floor area calculations in the Zoning Bylaw).

The Bylaw requirements apply to new "applicable buildings" as well as additions to a building that meets all of the following criteria:

- adds more than 20% floor area to the total floor area of the building, and
- results in the building meeting the definition of an "applicable building" (see above), and
- has a building permit construction value exceeding \$1,000,000.

Drawings for the emergency radio building amplification system will be reviewed by the Fire Department. The system shall be tested and accepted by the Fire Department prior to the issuance of occupancy certification. Such a system shall also be maintained and an annual testing report shall be submitted to the Fire Department.

Please refer to the Emergency Radio Building Amplification Bylaw for more details.

If you have any questions please contact the Burnaby Fire Prevention Office at 604-294-7195.

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