READY TO INSPECT — FIELD CHECKLIST

Fire alarm rough-in inspection checklist

Fire alarm rough-in is the last time the work is fully visible. Once the cover inspection passes and the walls, ceilings and slabs close, every defect left behind becomes a demolition bill. This checklist walks the rough-in in the order the work goes in, with the photo each item needs before it gets buried. Work is commonly verified against NFPA 72, the applicable building code. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction has adopted.

Who runs it: The fire alarm foreman walking their own rough-in, or the GC's superintendent at the pre-cover hold point. When: After back boxes and conduit are set and the circuits are pulled, before insulation, drywall and ceiling grid close in and before the rough-in inspection is called.

Approved layout and inspection

- [ ] Rough-in laid out from the AHJ-reviewed fire alarm drawings
  Device locations taken from the permit set the AHJ reviewed at its latest revision, not from the bid set or the electrical plan.
  No photo required
- [ ] Ceiling device boxes clear of diffusers, lights and beams
  Detector boxes kept off supply diffusers and away from beams and soffits as the approved drawings show; conflicts raised with the fire alarm designer before a box moves.
  1 photo required
- [ ] AHJ fire alarm rough-in inspection scheduled or passed
  Area on the AHJ's rough-in inspection calendar, or the passed result recorded, before insulation and drywall crews are released to close it.
  No photo required

Boxes and conduit

- [ ] Back boxes secured, square and at the correct depth
  Box firmly mounted to framing and set to the finished wall or ceiling surface, no crushed or over-deep boxes at pulls, horns and strobes.
  2 photos required
- [ ] Conduit and sleeves supported and roughed to the device layout
  Raceway supported at the required intervals, stub-ups and sleeves landing at the device and panel locations on the plan.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Fire alarm junction and pull boxes identified
  Covers painted, labeled or marked the way the project specification calls for at every fire alarm junction and pull box, so no other system gets spliced in.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Interface and relay box locations roughed as drawn
  Boxes for duct detectors, door-holder relays, elevator and HVAC interface modules set where the approved drawings show them and reachable after cover.
  No photo required

Wire type and separation

- [ ] Circuit cable is the specified type and gauge
  Cable jacket marking matches the type and gauge the design calls for on initiating, notification and signaling circuits.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Fire alarm wiring separated from line-voltage circuits
  Signaling conductors kept out of raceways and boxes shared with power, separation held where they run parallel.
  2 photos required
- [ ] Conductors marked by circuit and left with tails at every box
  Signaling line, notification and power conductors identified by circuit in each box, with enough tail left for the installer to land the device without tracing.
  1 photo required

- [ ] Exposed cable runs supported on their own, not laid on the ceiling
  Where cable runs exposed, fire alarm cable strapped or hung from its own supports, not lying on tile or grid or tied to ductwork, pipe or ceiling hanger wire.
  No photo required

- [ ] Redundant circuit paths routed apart as the design shows
  Where the design uses Class A or other redundant circuits, the outgoing and return runs kept on the separate routes drawn, never in the same raceway.
  No photo required

Mounting heights

- [ ] Device rough-ins set to the required mounting heights
  Strobe, horn, pull-station and manual-station boxes checked against the mounting height for that device before the finish covers them.
  2 photos required

- [ ] Wall device boxes clear of door swings, casework and fixed displays
  Strobe, speaker and pull boxes not landing behind door swings, cabinets, whiteboards or TV walls shown on the interior elevations.
  1 photo required