This document contains excerpts from the Fire Code of New York State that pertain to the impairment of a fire protection system. These are regulations used by the University Fire Marshal and EH&S as guidance to meet compliance pertaining to the impairment of a fire protection system.

Fire Code of New York State

Chapter-9 “Fire Protection Systems”

901.7 Systems out of service. Where a required fire protection system is out of service, the fire department and the code enforcement official shall be notified immediately, and the building shall either be evacuated or an approved fire watch shall be provided for all occupants left unprotected by the shut down until the fire protection system has been returned to service.

Where utilized, fire watches shall be provided with at least one approved means for notification of the fire department and their only duty shall be to perform constant patrols of the protected premises and keep watch for fires.

Exception: The code enforcement official is permitted to waive the requirement for evacuation or a fire watch where there is not a substantial risk to life safety or where alternatives to maintain an equivalent level of safety are prescribed

901.7.1 Impairment Coordinator. The building owner shall assign an impairment coordinator to comply with the requirement of this section. In the absence of a specific designee, the owner shall be considered the impairment coordinator.

(The University Fire Marshal has been identified as the Impairment Coordinator for all Cornell Owned Properties related to the main Ithaca campus)

901.7.2 Tag required. A tag shall be used to indicate that a system or portion thereof, has been removed from service.

901.7.3 Placement of tag. The tag shall be posted at each fire department connection, system control valve, fire alarm control unit, fire alarm annunciator and fire command center, indicating which system, or part thereof, has been removed from service. The code enforcement official shall specify where the tag is to be placed.

901.7.4 Preplanned impairment program. Preplanned impairments shall be authorized by the impairment coordinator. Before authorization is given, a designated individual shall be responsible for verifying that all of the following procedures have been implemented.