

LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE  
SEC. 103.206. ALARM SYSTEMS.

(Title Amended by Ord. No. 156,362, Eff. 3/15/82.) (Section Amended by Ord. No. 157,829, Eff. 8/12/83.)

(a) Definitions. Unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires, terms defined herein shall have the following meaning when used in this chapter:

(1) Alarm System. (Amended by Ord. No. 171,425, Eff. 1/4/97.) Any assembly of equipment and devices arranged to signal the presence of a hazard requiring urgent attention and to which police are expected to respond, excepting any system, device, or mechanism primarily protecting an automobile.

(2) Burglary Alarm System. An alarm system designed or used for detection of and reporting of an unauthorized entry or attempted unauthorized entry upon real property protected by the system.

(3) Department. The Los Angeles Police Department.

(4) Robbery Alarm System. An alarm system designed or used for alerting others of a robbery or other crime in progress which involves potential serious bodily injury or death.

(b) Permit Requirement. No person shall operate or use an alarm system on any premises under that person's control without first having obtained a permit therefor from the Board. For purposes of this section, a person shall be deemed to be an operator or user of an alarm system if:

(1) the person controls both the alarm system and the premises upon which it is installed, or

(2) the person controls the premises and is the subscriber, client, or customer of the system controller. Each permit shall be given a unique number. The Board shall charge the permit application fee as provided in Section 103.12 of this Code. No permit shall be issued or renewed for any person until all alarm system permit fees or service charges due and owing are paid. The granting or renewal of a permit pursuant to this section shall satisfy the written consent requirement set forth in Section 63.119.5 of this Code.

(c) Permit Suspension and Revocation. The Board may suspend or revoke a permit of any permittee whose alarm system has experienced within a twelve month period more than ten (10) responses by the Department which did not require police services for any purpose other than deactivation of the alarm. Failure to pay a service charge within sixty (60) days of billing shall be grounds for revocation of a permit.

(d) Service Charges.

(1) A service charge shall be billed to and paid by permittees for each response made by the Department in excess of two responses during a twelve-month period which did not require police service other than deactivation of the alarm system. A service charge shall be billed to and paid by non-permittees for each response made by the Department in excess of one response which did not require police service other than deactivation of the alarm. The amount of the charges shall be determined by the Board, subject to approval by the City Council by order or resolution, and shall be based upon then-existing City costs, including salary and vehicle costs. The Board may waive the service charge provided it has adopted and follows waiver of fee guidelines. (Amended by Ord. No. 171,425, Eff. 1/4/97.)

(2) The Department shall advise the Office of Finance of all applicable service charges. The charges shall be billed to permittees by the Office of Finance and shall be due and payable to the Office of Finance within fifteen days of the billing date. (Amended by Ord. No. 173,300, Eff. 6/30/00, Oper. 7/1/00.)

(3) If the Office of Finance determines for any billing that a discrepancy exists, between service charges paid and the amount due pursuant to this section, which results in an underpayment of or overpayment in an amount of three dollars or less, the Office of Finance may accept and record the billing as paid in full, without other notification to the person billed. (Amended by Ord. No. 173,300, Eff. 6/30/00, Oper. 7/1/00.)

(4) If the Office of Finance determines that any amount due hereunder cannot be collected or that efforts to collect any such sum would be disproportionately costly with

relation to the probable outcome of the collecting efforts relative to the amount due, the Office of Finance may prepare a report setting forth the findings and reasons therefor and submit that report to a Board of Review constituted under Section 11.04 of this Code and authorized to act as provided therein. Upon unanimous approval of such finding by the Board of Review, the Office of Finance may remove any unpaid sum owing or believed to be owing from the active accounts receivable of the Department. The removal however shall not preclude the City from collecting or attempting to collect any such sum that later proves to be collectible, as provided by Section 11.04. (Amended by Ord. No. 173,300, Eff. 6/30/00, Oper. 7/1/00.)

(e) Additional Duties of Permittees.

(1) The premises shall display, at or near the main entrance, the permit number and the telephone number of the person designated to respond to the location in the event of an alarm. Numbers shall be clearly visible and readable from the exterior of the premises.

The premises shall display the street address at or near the front of the premises and at other places where access is available, such as, from an alley or parking lot. The street address shall be clearly visible.

(2) All alarm system messages to the Department shall begin with the permittee's permit number.

(3) The permittee or the permittee's designee shall respond to a premises following activation of an alarm constituting part of an alarm system for which a permit at that location has been issued hereunder. The response shall be made within a reasonable time and, in any event, within one hour after being requested to do so by the Department.

(f) Impermissible Systems and Uses.

(1) No person shall operate or use any alarm system that emits a sound similar to that of an emergency vehicle siren or a civil defense warning system.

(2) No person shall operate or use an alarm system that emits an audible sound where such emission does not automatically cease within one-half hour.

(3) No person shall operate or use a robbery alarm system for any purpose other than reporting robberies or other crimes involving potential serious bodily injury or death.

(4) No person shall operate or use a burglary alarm system for any purpose other than detecting and reporting an unauthorized entry or an attempted unauthorized entry upon the premises protected by such system.

(5) No person shall operate or use an alarm system which has been disapproved by the Board.

(6) No person shall operate or use an alarm system which causes a request for service to be placed with the Police Department prior to the verification of the need for such service either by physical inspection of the scene of the activation, remote electronic inspection of the scene, or an attempt has been made to verify the need for service by telephonic means. (Amended by Ord. No. 171,425, Eff. 1/4/97.)

(7) No person shall operate or use an alarm system which causes a request for service to be placed with a 9-1-1 emergency service number prior to the verification of the need for such service either by physical inspection of the scene of the activation, remote electronic inspection of the scene or actual telephonic verification by a person at the scene. (Amended by Ord. No. 171,425, Eff. 1/4/97.)

(g) Violation. Violation of this section, other than by failure to pay a service charge, shall constitute a misdemeanor. (Amended by Ord. No. 171,425, Eff. 1/4/97.)

SEC. 103.206.1. ALARM COMPANY OPERATORS.

(Amended by Ord. No. 171,425, Eff. 1/4/97.)

(a) Definitions: The definitions contained in California Business and Professions Code Sections 7590.1 and 7590.2 shall be applicable to this section.

(b) Permit Requirement. No person shall engage in the business of alarm company operator without having first obtained a Business Tax Registration Certificate from the Office of Finance (Amended by Ord. No. 173,300, Eff. 6/30/00, Oper. 7/1/00.)