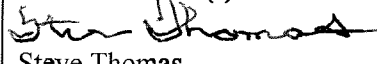
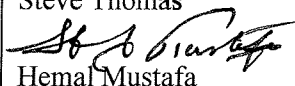




**Department of Permitting Services**  
 Division of Building Construction  
 255 Rockville Pike, 2nd Floor, Rockville, Maryland 20850

**CODE INTERPRETATION/POLICY**

<b>Policy Name:</b> Portable/Modular Classrooms without Emergency Voice/Alarm Communication System.		
<b>Code/Year</b> International Building Code (IBC) 2015 Life Safety Code (NFPA 101) 2015	<b>Section of Code</b> 907.2.3  14.3.4.3(14.3.4.3.1.2 new educational occupancy) and 15.3.4.3(15.3.4.1.2 existing educational occupancy)	<b>Title of Code Section/Subsection</b> Group E (Emergency voice/alarm communication system (EVAC)) Notification  Notification
<b>Statement/Background of Issue</b> <p>The emergency voice /alarm system is required by code in Educational Occupancies (Group E) with an occupant load of 100 or more. The 2012 International Fire Code (IFC, Section 404.2.3) addresses the development and implementation of lockdown plans. This requirement (EVAC) was developed to ensure that the level of life safety inside the building is not compromised during a lockdown. This specific requirement enhances the communication between the school administration, teachers and students when a lockdown plan is activated in Group E.</p>		
<b>Division(s) Interpretation/Policy</b> <p>This policy applies to Portable/Modular classrooms which are independently certified units and are placed on site as a cluster with or without attached decks and/or breezeways, and in aggregate may have occupant load exceeding 100. All the requirements noted below must be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. No EVAC system is required as long as another form of communication (Radio, Intercom (wired or wireless), or Cell phone) is in place prior to use and occupancy.</li> <li>B. A Manual Fire Alarm system must be installed as required by the applicable code(s).</li> <li>C. This policy does not relieve this situation from any other requirements.</li> </ul>		
<b>Interpretation/Policy No.</b>  Building/FPCC DPS 05-2018	<b>Date:</b> 05-22-2018	<b>Division Chief (s)</b>  Steve Thomas  Hemal Mustafa