



POLICY INTENT NOTICE

PIN: 78

SUBJECT

Fire Pump Automatic Transfer Switches

Effective: 2/6/2025



PURPOSE

This Policy Intent Notice provides guidance on requirements in the California Electrical Code, Article 695 Fire Pumps, Section 695.3(G), which requires that the Fire Pump Automatic Transfer Switches (ATS) shall be both:

- Listed for fire pump service, and
- Bypass Isolation type

Available ATS for fire pumps 150 horsepower (HP) and larger cannot meet both requirements.

BACKGROUND

It has been brought to the attention of the Office of Statewide Hospital Planning and Development (OSHPD) that manufactures are no longer making ATS for fire pumps 150HP and larger that meet the California Electrical Code (CEC) Article 695 requirements. Here is an excerpt from the code:

695.3 Power Source(s) for Electric Motor-Driven Fire Pumps.

...

(G) Power Source Selection. Selection of power source shall be performed by a transfer switch listed for fire pump service. [20:10.8.1.3.1] [OSHPD 1, 2 (facilities complying with Article 517.40(B), 3 (surgical clinics), & 4 & 5 (with critical care spaces)] Transfer switch shall comply with Article 517.31(B)(3).

As stated in the CEC Section 695.3(G), fire pump ATS must be specifically listed for fire pump service-not just emergency listed. The code also requires fire pump transfer switches to comply with article 517.31(B)(3), which is a requirement for all ATS to be Bypass Isolation type.

While the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) standard 1008 allows for a separate ATS and fire pump controller, the selection of Bypass Isolation ATS that are also listed for fire pump service is limited. The most common arrangement is a combination ATS/fire pump controller listed for fire pump service. Manufacturers currently do not make a transfer switch listed for fire pump service with a Bypass Isolation option to feed the larger fire pumps.

This unavailability of California code-compliant ATS for fire pumps over 150HP has caused concerns and challenges that might require nonstandard solutions which could decrease the reliability of fire sprinkler systems at OSHPD facilities.

POLICY

Fire pump ATS will still need to be fire pump service listed, however the requirement to be Bypass Isolation type called for in CEC Section 695.3(G) will not be required.

Original signed	2/26/2025
Chris Tokas, Deputy Director	Date