

Meeting the EMERGENCY RESPONDER RADIO COVERAGE Requirement of 780CMR915.0





BOSTON FIRE COMMUNICATIONS

Please note that there was a major revision to 780 CMR 915.0 on April 11, 2014 and it could apply to your new construction project. The Massachusetts State Building Code requires designers to provide Emergency Responder Radio Coverage, otherwise know as Bi-Directional Amplification in all new buildings. Please note that one and two family dwellings are exempt. For more information see our website <http://www.bfdradio.net/bda/bda.html>. Also note that Bi-Directional Amplification must be tested prior to scheduling your fire alarm test with Fire Prevention.

**Thank you,
The Boston Fire Department**





The Massachusetts State Building Code
requires building owners to provide
Emergency Responder Radio Coverage
in all new buildings.

There was a major revision to
780CMR915.0 on April 11, 2014.





The ERRC requirement protects the performance of emergency responders' portable radios inside buildings.

Building construction, size, design, and other elements can absorb or block radio communications.





Not all buildings will require a signal booster (BDA) to meet the ERRC requirement

Exceptions:

One and 2 family dwellings

Buildings that have sufficient levels of radio coverage





1. Determine if the building has sufficient radio coverage

An RF Survey must be performed by an approved vendor





Requirements

BFDRADIO.NET

Emergency Responder Radio Coverage in Buildings



Requirements for the Installation of a Fire Fighter Communication System

The Boston Fire Department has developed these requirements in conjunction with the requirements of the Massachusetts Building Code as amended on April 11, 2014.

The installation and operation of radio based fire fighter communication systems must comply with this document.

The voluntary installation of a radio based fire fighter communication system must comply with all of the requirements of this document.

The in-building radio system is an integral component of the life safety equipment of a building or structure. The primary function is to provide reliable firefighter communications at the required signal strength within the specified areas

Joseph F. Brooks
Radio Supervisor
Boston Fire Department

Revision: 17.1
Effective Date: December 5, 2017





2. Radio provider submits permit

Installs require system drawings

Waivers require RF Survey





BOSTON FIRE COMMUNICATIONS

Permit

For Waivers and Installations



CITY OF BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT Permit to Install and Maintain a Signal Booster



Installation Address: _____ Zip: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> New Fire radio Installation
Name of Bldg (if applicable): _____		<input type="checkbox"/> New Fire and Police radio Installation
		<input type="checkbox"/> Modification of existing system
		<input type="checkbox"/> 5-Year Waiver (survey required with permit application)
Property Owner	Name: _____	Floors
	Address: _____	Above Grade _____ Below Grade _____
		Distributed Antenna System <input type="checkbox"/> Shared (IM study required with permit) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Shared
Property Manager	Name: _____ Phone: _____	
	Signature: _____ Email: _____	
Note: Not to be signed by contractors		
Description of Work:		
NOTE:	Applicants must submit a copy of this Permit Application to the Boston Police Communications Division at Radio@pd.boston.gov. If a signal booster is also required for Boston Police frequencies, this permit must be resubmitted with the IM Study.	
Radio System Installer	Name: _____ Electrician's License # _____	
	Address: _____	
	Email: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____	
<p>I certify that the property owner understands and has agreed to comply with the current Boston Fire Department Signal Booster Specification. If a conflict should result with any of these specifications it will be my responsibility to resolve it.</p> <p>The property owner has also acknowledged that upon final system acceptance, permission will be granted to operate a signal booster on frequencies licensed to the Boston Fire Department, by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and that failure to maintain compliance with the Boston Fire Department Signal Booster specifications will result in the withdrawal of this permission.</p>		
Radio Service Provider	Address: _____	
Name: _____	FCC License # _____	
Signature: _____	Phone: _____	
Email: _____	Fax: _____	Date: _____

For office use only

BFD Permit Number : _____ FCC Signal Booster Registration # SB _____

Issued by: _____ Signal Booster Specification Version: _____

12/5/2017





Waiver of Radio Coverage System

Buildings that have sufficient levels of radio coverage may request a waiver.

Submit a Permit Application indicating a waiver is being requested along with an RF survey showing sufficient levels of radio coverage.

Coverage will be verified by Boston Fire.





Waiver of Radio Coverage System

Waivers are valid for 5 years. Owners must submit a new RF survey every 5 years.

At any time it is determined by the Boston Fire Department, that radio coverage is not adequate, the property owner is then required to provide radio coverage.





Approved Shops

This list is provided only to assist you finding a service provider. We do not endorse any particular provider and the only requirements we have for a vendor are described in the BFD In-Building specification.

Applied Communications
Capone Communications
Comtronics
Cyber Communications
Industrial
Northeast 2-way Radio
Radio Solutions
Sideband Systems





Your Radio Service Provider Will:

- Perform an RF Survey (for Waivers)
- Assist with system design
- Submit required documentation and permit application
- Perform start up testing to verify coverage
- Request an inspection when system is completed



THANK YOU



WWW.BFDRADIO.NET/BDA