

Allianz Risk Consultants

Fire Protection Impairment Program

Allianz 
Global Risks



Background

A Fire Protection Impairment Program is an effective management program used to:

- Supervise the safe shutdown of fire protection systems
- Control potential fire hazards during the impairment
- Restore the fire protection system to service as soon as possible

An impairment is defined as a shutdown (in whole or in part) of a fire protection system. Fire protection systems include sprinkler systems, standpipe/hose systems, fire pumps, fire protection water supplies, fire mains, fire alarm systems, and special extinguishing systems (i.e. clean agent, wet/dry chemical, foam/water, etc.).

There are two main types of impairments:

1. **Emergency Impairment**—where a fire protection system is out of service due to an unexpected occurrence, such as a ruptured pipe, an operated sprinkler or an interruption of the water supply to the system.
2. **Planned Impairment**—where a fire protection system is out of service due to work that has been planned in advance, such as revisions to the water supply or sprinkler system piping.

Trained personnel should be assigned the following responsibilities:

Impairment Coordinator

- Should be a company employee (not a contractor)
- Has overall responsibility for proper implementation of the Fire Protection Impairment Program
- Issues impairment tags

Fire Watch

- Ensures safe conditions are maintained during impairments
- Reports unsafe conditions to the Impairment Coordinator
- Has temporary fire protection available (i.e. fire extinguisher, fire hose, etc.) and is trained in its use
- Is familiar with the facility and procedures for sounding an alarm in the event of a fire

Fire Protection Impairment Procedures

1

Impairment Coordinator notifies Allianz Risk Consultants, the local fire department, and the alarm monitoring company in advance of the planned impairment or as soon as possible for an emergency impairment. Allianz Risk Consultants can be notified 24/7 by any of the following ways:

Toll-free: (800) 272-1193 (US & Canada)
Direct: (818) 260-7337
Fax: (818) 260-7137
Email: [fyihotline@aic-allianz.com](mailto:fjihotline@aic-allianz.com)

The following information should be given to Allianz Risk Consultants:

- 1) Name and phone number of person giving notification
- 2) Name and address of company
- 3) Impairment details:
 - a. Name/identification of fire protection system
 - b. Reason for impairment
 - c. When system will be impaired
 - d. Expected duration of impairment
 - e. Precautions taken

2

Prior to shutoff of the fire protection system, the Impairment Coordinator verifies all applicable precautions are taken and completes the impairment tag. In addition, all workers, tools and materials should be ready to complete the work prior to impairing the system.

3

Assign a Fire Watch to tour the affected area during the entire impairment. The fire watch can consist of a person conducting continuous patrols or trained employees continuously working in the affected area.

4

Attach Part B of the tag to the impaired system (i.e. shut sprinkler valve, fire system control panel, etc.). If a sprinkler control valve is shut, record the number of turns to close on Part B of the tag.

5

The Impairment Coordinator retains Part A of the tag as a reminder of the work being done.

6

Work without interruption until completion. Do not leave protection out of service any longer than necessary.

7

When work is completed, the Impairment Coordinator should verify that the system has been fully restored. For sprinkler system impairments, verify that the number of turns to shut the valve is equal to the number of turns to open the valve. After opening the valve, conduct and record a main drain test to verify that an adequate water supply is re-established.

8

Notify Allianz Risk Consultants, the fire department and the alarm monitoring company as soon as the system is restored.

9

The completed impairment tags should be maintained on file for at least one year for review.

Where to Obtain Impairment Tags

To obtain Follow Your Impairment (FYI) tags, please notify Allianz Risk Consultants via e-mail at fyihotline@aic-allianz.com. The following information should be included in your request:

- Name
- Phone number
- Name of company and mailing address
- Number of FYI tags needed

Allianz Risk Consultants FYI Tag – Sample

IMPAIRMENT TAG		PART A	No. 74035
<h1>FYI</h1> <p>FOLLOW YOUR IMPAIRMENT</p> <p>BEFORE IMPAIRING FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT, PLEASE CALL ALLIANZ RISK CONSULTANTS (ARC) AT 1-800-ARC-1193</p> <p>OR FAX THIS COMPLETED FORM TO ARC AT (818) 260-7137 OR VIA E-MAIL TO FYIHOTLINE@AIC-ALLIANZ.COM</p>			
PROTECTION: <input type="checkbox"/> SPRINKLERS <input type="checkbox"/> FIRE PUMP <input type="checkbox"/> ALARM SYSTEM			
<input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL EXTINGUISHING SYSTEM <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____			
VALVE NO(S): _____ LOCATION(S): _____			
AREA(S) PROTECTED: _____			
REASON(S) FOR IMPAIRMENT: _____			
PRECAUTIONS TAKEN: (MARK ALL APPROPRIATE)			
<input type="checkbox"/> NOTIFIED ALLIANZ RISK CONSULTANTS	<input type="checkbox"/> PROHIBIT USE OF FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS		
<input type="checkbox"/> NOTIFIED PUBLIC FIRE DEPARTMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PROHIBIT HOT WORK ACTIVITIES		
<input type="checkbox"/> NOTIFIED ALARM COMPANY	<input type="checkbox"/> PROHIBIT SMOKING		
<input type="checkbox"/> STOP HAZARDOUS PRODUCTION AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES	<input type="checkbox"/> MAINTAIN CONSTANT FIRE WATCH		
<input type="checkbox"/> TEMPORARY FIRE PROTECTION PROVIDED	<input type="checkbox"/> CONTINUE WORK UNTIL PROTECTION RESTORED		
COMPANY NAME			
CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER			
SHUT OFF BY: _____			
DATE _____ TIME _____			
SHUT OFF BY: _____	AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE		
<p>PART A INSTRUCTIONS:</p> <p>DISPLAY THIS TAG IN A VISIBLE LOCATION UNTIL CORRESPONDING IMPAIRMENT TAG IS RETURNED & MATCHED. CAREFULLY FOLLOW ALLIANZ RISK CONSULTANTS PROCEDURES FOR IMPAIRED FIRE PROTECTION.</p> <p>ALLIANZ RISK CONSULTANTS an Allianz COMPANY Global Risk © 1996 ARC</p>			