

✓ Checklist for Selecting Standard Central Station Service

When considering ordering central station service, here are basic items you may need in your contract. If you have questions on selecting an FM Approvals service, write FM Approvals, P.O. Box 9102, Norwood, MA 02062 USA, or call +1 (1) 781 255 4832.

If you have contracted a service, FM Approvals can help you determine if your service meets standard service requirements. (Full requirements of central station service are in Approval Standard 3011, Central Station Service for Fire Alarms and Protective Equipment Supervision and NFPA Standard 72, The National Fire Alarm Code.)

1. Select either an FM Approved full service central station provider or the combined services of an FM Approved monitoring-only company and an FM Approved local alarm installer as listed in the fire protection volume of the latest Approval Guide, a publication of FM Approvals.
2. Make sure the central station service contractor meets all requirements of FM Approvals. Only services meeting these requirements qualify as standard.
3. Make sure your contract clearly specifies the following in addition to terms of the central station service contract. (These items are most often lacking in nonstandard central station services.)
 - Testing of transmitting equipment, sprinkler waterflow actuated devices, automatic fire-detection systems, and valve supervisory devices will be performed in accordance with NFPA 72, The National Fire Alarm Code. Test records show exactly what adjustment, repair or replacement was needed to correct equipment problems found during the regularly scheduled tests.
 - All fire protection signaling equipment installed at your property is FM Approved. The installation is arranged independently of (not adversely affected by) other signaling equipment.
 - Your property lies within the central station service contractor's FM Approved geographical area. FM Approved service is limited to an area within one-hour's travel time from the location(s) from which personnel are dispatched to manually reset protected property equipment and to investigate supervisory signals. (Separate service depot(s) often supplement the FM Approved central station facility.)
 - If the central station service equipment and service meet the above requirements and standards, your protected property has earned the right to bear the FM APPROVED mark. You may affix it to or near at least one signaling device or accessory at your protected property.