

2026 Ontario Fire Code Updates



Overview

Ontario is introducing major updates to **Fire Alarm Inspection and Testing requirements** that take effect on **January 1, 2026**. These changes formalize inspection and verification procedures across the province by adopting the national **CAN/ULC-S536-19** standard. Immediate action is required by Property Owners and Building Operators to prepare for the increased rigor and new documentation mandates.

Summary

Regulatory Changes

These changes make fire alarm inspections more **thorough, standardized, and time-intensive**, focusing on **system reliability** and **compliance**:

True Device-Level Testing: The inspection process expands to include more steps for all components, receiving more scrutiny and requiring more documentation.

New Battery Testing Method: Simple voltage checks are no longer acceptable; batteries must now undergo a **functional/load test** with recorded measurements.

Mandatory Report Forms: All annual and monthly reports must use the official, multi-page ULC-prescribed forms; abridged or custom checklists are no longer acceptable.

Clear Deficiencies vs. Recommendations: The standard formally **separates required deficiencies** (must be corrected) from optional recommendations, providing owners with a clear, actionable compliance list.

Attendance & Accountability Requirements: Inspection records must now include specific accountability details: **technician names, dates and times on site, and owner/agent acknowledgment**.

Formalized Monthly Logs: Monthly inspection logs must now follow the standardized **ULC format**, becoming part of the formal compliance record reviewed by AHJs.

Next Steps

Inspections will be **more time-intensive**. Buildings should expect **longer service windows** and **deeper documentation** beginning in 2026. Plan budgeting and service scheduling now to accommodate the increased time and rigor.