

# 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

<b>Regulatory Changes</b>	<p>These changes make fire alarm inspections more <b>thorough, standardized, and time-intensive</b>, focusing on <b>system reliability</b> and <b>compliance</b>:</p> <p><b>True Device-Level Testing:</b> The inspection process expands to include more steps for all components, receiving more scrutiny and requiring more documentation.</p> <p><b>New Battery Testing Method:</b> Simple voltage checks are no longer acceptable; batteries must now undergo a <b>functional/load test</b> with recorded measurements.</p> <p><b>Mandatory Report Forms:</b> All annual and monthly reports must use the official, multi-page ULC-prescribed forms; abridged or custom checklists are no longer acceptable.</p> <p><b>Clear Deficiencies vs. Recommendations:</b> The standard formally <b>separates required deficiencies</b> (must be corrected) from optional recommendations, providing owners with a clear, actionable compliance list.</p> <p><b>Attendance &amp; Accountability Requirements:</b> Inspection records must now include specific accountability details: <b>technician names, dates and times on site, and owner/agent acknowledgment</b>.</p> <p><b>Formalized Monthly Logs:</b> Monthly inspection logs must now follow the standardized <b>ULC format</b>, becoming part of the formal compliance record reviewed by AHJs.</p>
<b>Next Steps</b>	Inspections will be <b>more time-intensive</b> . Buildings should expect <b>longer service windows</b> and <b>deeper documentation</b> beginning in 2026. Plan budgeting and service scheduling now to accommodate the increased time and rigor.