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The life safety issues confronted by us today are very difficult and painful to address. As manufacturers, we have the legal responsibility to ensure we have done everything possible to protect the consumer who does not have the ability to understand the safety issues. Reporting low battery and insufficient sensitivity are life safety issues. Ensuring that the detectors are functioning to its specifications are just as important if not vital to the detection. Low battery and insufficient sensitivity trouble conditions are now referred to as alarms. The alarm transmissions are sent only when the event occurs and are not periodic. The low battery and insufficient sensitivity conditions are also treated as alarm transmissions, that is, transmissions only occur when the event is triggered and stops when the conditions causing the events are no longer present.

Fire Marshals and Public Safety Officials are looking at various methods to prevent disasters. Soon it will be mandatory that all residences be equipped with fire/smoke detectors. Though buildings may have fire/smoke detectors, they may not be well maintained or even operational. Many fires and fatalities could have been prevented had the fire/smoke detectors been operational. Poor or faulty fire/smoke detectors with bad batteries are the most common causes of failures that could have prevented fatalities.

For the above reasons, we consider low battery and insufficient sensitivity vital conditions of the fire/smoke detectors. Detectors with these vital conditions must be serviced or replaced immediately. The user is constantly reminded that their lives are in potential danger. Not attending to these vital conditions, immediately, can prove to be fatal. The detection of fire/smoke is only possible if the detector is good. Hence there are alarms for the detection of fire/smoke and there are alarms for the detection of malfunctioned detectors. Both type of alarms are equally important to prevent fatalities.