



California State Fire Marshal Information Bulletin 13-006

November 18, 2013

Update New Requirement for Smoke Alarm Listings

Senate Bill 745 was signed by Governor Brown and chaptered into law. The new law has some revised language to the current law that passed last year (SB 1394-Lowenthal). In order to list a smoke alarm in California, the new law requires the following:

- (1) Commencing July 1, 2014, all smoke alarms including combination smoke alarms, that are solely battery powered shall contain a nonreplaceable, nonremovable battery that is capable of powering the smoke alarm for at least 10 years.

EXCEPTION: This section shall not apply to any smoke alarm or combination smoke alarm that has been ordered by, or are in the inventory of, an owner, managing agent, contractor, wholesaler, or retailer on or before July 1, 2014, until July 1, 2015.

The manufacturers will be allowed to maintain their existing OSFM listings (for battery operated alarms) until July 1, 2015, provided the Exception of Provision (1) is met. All new listings of battery operated smoke alarm approved after July 1, 2014, must comply with the Provision (1) which requires a nonreplaceable, nonremovable battery that is capable of powering the smoke alarm for at least 10 years.

- (2) Commencing January 1, 2015, all new listings of smoke alarms or combination smoke alarms shall display the date of manufacture, provide a place on the device where the date of installation can be written, and incorporate a hush feature. This requirement does not apply to existing listings for battery operated smoke alarms that meet the exception under Provision (1) which have been ordered by, or are in the inventory of, an owner, managing agent, contractor, wholesaler, or retailer on or before July 1, 2014.

The State Fire Marshal has the authority to create exceptions to provisions (1) and (2) through its regulatory process. The exceptions that may be considered as part of the regulatory process shall include, but are not limited to, fire alarm systems with smoke detectors, fire alarm devices that connect to a panel, or other devices that use a low-power radio frequency wireless communication signal.

For the manufacturers, effective July 1, 2015, all smoke alarms (120 VAC hardwired or battery operated) must comply with Provision (2) which shall display the date of manufacture, provide a place on the device where the date of installation can be written, and incorporate a hush feature. Effective July 1, 2015, all battery operated smoke alarms must also comply with Provision (1) which shall contain a nonreplaceable, nonremovable battery that is capable of powering the smoke alarm for at least 10 years.



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It would also require that for all dwelling units intended for human occupancy, for which a building permit is issued on or after January 1, 2014, for alterations, repairs, or additions exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), the permit issuer shall not sign off on the completion of work until the permittee demonstrates that all smoke alarms required for the dwelling unit are devices approved and listed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13114.

The law also requires that by January 1, 2016, owners of a dwelling unit intended for human occupancy in which one or more units is rented or leased shall install additional smoke alarm, as needed, to ensure that smoke alarms are located in compliance with current building standards. Existing alarms installed need not be replaced unless the alarm is inoperable.

The law also extends the requirement for the installation of carbon monoxide devices to all existing hotel and motel dwellings having a fossil fuel burning heater or appliance, fireplace, or an attached garage by January 1, 2016, and require the Department of Housing and Community Development to adopt building standards to implement those provisions by July 1, 2014.

For other questions relating to this new law or the placement of the devices, please contact your local enforcing agencies.

Regulations information is available on the California Department of Housing and Community Development website at: <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/>

Information on the hazards of carbon monoxide is available from the California Department of Public Health website at: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/DEFAULT.aspx>

For questions regarding the OSFM listing, please contact Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal James Parsegian at (916) 445-8415 or james.parsegian@fire.ca.gov

For more information please visit our website <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>