



City of Utica

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RESIDENTIAL SMOKE ALARM REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING STRUCTURES

Pursuant to Michigan Public Acts 64 & 65 of 2005, effective March 14, 2006, **all existing residential** structures must have smoke alarms no later than March 14, 2007, subject to the following:

SECTION R313 SMOKE ALARMS

[F] R313.1 Smoke alarms. Smoke alarms shall be installed in the following locations:

1. In each sleeping room.
2. Outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.
3. On each additional story of the dwelling, including basements but not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics. In dwellings or dwelling units with split levels and without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level provided that the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level.

When more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed within an individual dwelling unit the alarm devices shall be interconnected in such a manner that the actuation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the individual unit. The alarm shall be clearly audible in all bedrooms over background noise levels with all intervening doors closed.

All smoke alarms shall be listed and installed in accordance with the provisions of this code and the household fire warning equipment provisions of NFPA 72.

[EB] R313.1.1 Alterations, repairs and additions. When interior alterations, repairs or additions requiring a permit occur, or when one or more sleeping rooms are added or created in existing dwellings, the individual dwelling unit shall be provided with smoke alarms located as required for new dwellings; the smoke alarms shall be interconnected and hard wired.

Exceptions:

1. Smoke alarms in existing areas shall not be required to be interconnected and hard wired where the alterations or repairs do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an attic, crawl space, or basement available which could provide access for hard wiring and interconnection without the removal of interior finishes.
2. Repairs to the exterior surfaces of dwellings are exempt from the requirements of this section.

[F] R313.2 Power source. In new construction, the required smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring when such wiring is served from a commercial source, and when primary power is interrupted, shall receive power from a battery. Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than those required for overcurrent protection. Smoke alarms shall be permitted to be battery operated when installed in buildings without commercial power or in buildings that undergo alterations, repairs or additions regulated by Section R313.1.1.

R313.3. Smoke alarm locations in existing buildings constructed before November 6, 1974. Within each dwelling unit or sleeping unit, a single-station smoke alarm shall be installed in the following locations:

1. In each sleeping room or each area directly outside the sleeping room.
2. On each floor level including the basement level.

For sleeping units with split levels and without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level provided that the lower level is less than 1 full story below the upper level.

R313.4. Equipment requirements. The required equipment for smoke alarms shall consist of the following:

1. Installation. Smoke alarm devices shall be listed and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation requirements, the provisions of the code and the provisions of NFPA 72, which is adopted by reference in these rules. The standard is available for inspection at the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety, 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or from NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA, 02269-9101, at a cost as of the time of adoption of these amendatory rules of \$48.00.
2. Power Source. The equipment shall be operable by power from 1 of the following primary sources.
 - a. The building wiring provided that such wiring is served from a commercial source and is equipped with a battery backup. Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than as required for overcurrent protection.
 - b. **A non-rechargeable battery that is capable of operating the smoke alarm in the normal condition for a life of 5 years.**
 - c. A rechargeable battery, with proper charging, able to power the alarm for a life of 5 years and shall be automatically recharged by an AC circuit of the commercial light and power source.
 - d. A household use alarm system with battery backup listed and approved in accordance with the household fire warning equipment provisions of NFPA 72, as referenced in Section R313.4 of the code.
3. Audible Alarm Notification. The activation of the alarm signal shall produce a sound that is audible in all occupiable dwelling areas.
4. Testing and Maintenance. The owner of a dwelling unit, in which required or optional fire detection or fire protection systems equipment is installed, shall be responsible for the proper operation, testing, and maintenance of the equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions included with the equipment. The occupant of rental dwelling units shall be responsible for the periodic operational testing and periodic cleaning of the installed equipment within the rental unit in accordance with the testing instructions provided in the manufacturer's instructions for the equipment. If the system fails, breaks, or is out of service, it shall be repaired and functional within 30 days.

Exception: Smoke alarms and devices installed in buildings constructed before November 6, 1974 where an installation was approved by the appropriate enforcing agency under regulations in effect at the time of the installation shall comply with the provisions of the code.
