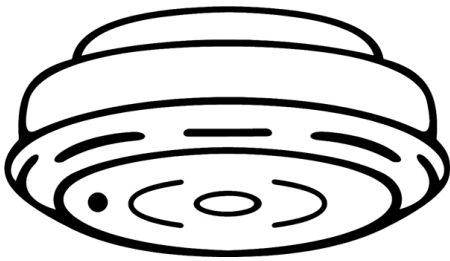




DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE
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REV 01/01/2019

New Castle County has developed a policy for installation of smoke alarms when additions or renovations to residences are performed. The policy strives to ensure safety compliance, while not creating an onerous burden on contractors and homeowners. Policy provisions state:



*Power to hard-wired alarms shall come from a dedicated circuit OR the unswitched** portion of a branch circuit.

**Unswitched means that the operation of a switch or ground-fault-circuit-interrupter (GFI) shall not cause the power to be shut off.

NEW HOMES.

All new home construction must meet the provisions of the 2018 IRC Section R314 exactly. (SEE REVERSE SIDE)

RESIDENTIAL ADDITIONS.

With New Bedroom. If the addition includes a new bedroom(s), a hard-wired* interconnected smoke alarm is required in each new sleeping room and outside of each new sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms. In addition, battery operated alarms are required in all other locations required by the IRC.

Without New Bedroom. If the addition does NOT include a new bedroom, a hard-wired* smoke alarm is recommended in the new addition unless the existing home has a hard-wired smoke alarm on the same level. In addition, battery operated alarms are required in all other locations required by the IRC.

RENOVATIONS.

Minor renovations: The installation of battery-operated smoke alarms is required in all locations required by the IRC.

Major renovations: The installation of hard-wired* interconnected smoke alarms is required, as specified in the IRC for a new single-family dwelling.

LIVING SPACE IN BASEMENT.

Basement living space requires the installation of a hard-wired* smoke alarm on that level and battery* operated smoke alarms in all other locations required by the IRC. For bedrooms in basement, see Residential Additions - With New Bedroom.

DECKS & EXTERIOR SURFACE MODIFICATIONS.

These exterior only projects do not invoke smoke alarm requirements.

REQUIRED SMOKE ALARM LOCATIONS

(per 2018 IRC R314)

Single- and multiple-station smoke alarms shall be installed in the following locations:

- 1. In each sleeping room.
2. Outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.
3. On each additional story of the dwelling, including basements and cellars, 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.

SECTION R314 SMOKE ALARMS

R314.1 General. Smoke alarms shall comply with NFPA 72 and Section R314.

R314.1.1 Listings. Smoke alarms shall be listed in accordance with UL 217. Combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms shall be listed in accordance with UL 217 and UL 2034.

R314.2 Where required. Smoke alarms shall be provided in accordance with this section.

R314.2.1 New construction. Smoke alarms shall be provided in dwelling units.

R314.2.2 Alterations, repairs and additions. Where alterations, repairs or additions requiring a permit occur, or where one or more sleeping rooms are added or created in existing dwellings, the individual dwelling unit shall be equipped with smoke alarms located as required for new dwellings.

Exceptions:

1. Work involving the exterior surfaces of dwellings, such as the replacement of roofing or siding, the addition or replacement of windows or doors, or the addition of a porch or deck, are exempt from the requirements of this section.
2. Installation, alteration or repairs of plumbing or mechanical systems are exempt from the requirements of this section.
3. [**Minor interior renovations to dwellings require the installation of battery operated smoke alarms as required by the International Residential Code.**]

R314.3 Location. 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 and habitable attics and 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.
4. Smoke alarms shall be installed not less than 3 feet (914 mm) horizontally from the door or opening of a bathroom that contains a bathtub or shower unless this would prevent placement of a smoke alarm required by Section R314.3.

R314.3.1 Installation near cooking appliances. Smoke alarms shall not be installed in the following locations unless this would prevent placement of a smoke alarm in a location required by Section R314.3.

1. Ionization smoke alarms shall not be installed less than 20 feet (6096 mm) horizontally from a permanently installed cooking appliance.
2. Ionization smoke alarms with an alarm-silencing switch shall not be installed less than 10 feet (3048 mm) horizontally from a permanently installed cooking appliance.
3. Photoelectric smoke alarms shall not be installed less than 6 feet (1828 mm) horizontally from a permanently installed cooking appliance.

R314.4 Interconnection. Where more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed within an individual dwelling unit in accordance with Section R314.3, 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 dwelling unit. Physical interconnection of smoke alarms shall not be required where listed wireless alarms are installed and all alarms sound upon activation of one alarm.

Exception: Interconnection of smoke alarms in existing areas shall not be required where alterations or repairs do not result in removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an attic, crawl space or basement available that could provide access for interconnection without the removal of interior finishes.

R314.5 Combination alarms. Combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms shall be permitted to be used in lieu of smoke alarms.

R314.6 Power source. Smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring where such wiring is served from a commercial source and, where 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.

Exceptions:

1. Smoke alarms shall be permitted to be battery operated where installed in buildings without commercial power.
2. Smoke alarms installed in accordance with Section R314.2.2 shall be permitted to be battery powered.

R314.7 Fire alarm systems. Fire alarm systems shall be permitted to be used in lieu of smoke alarms and shall comply with Sections R314.7.1 through R314.7.4.

R314.7.1 General. Fire alarm systems shall comply with the provisions of this code and the household fire warning equipment provisions of NFPA 72. Smoke detectors shall be listed in accordance with UL 268.

R314.7.2 Location. Smoke detectors shall be installed in the locations specified in Section R314.3.

R314.7.3 Permanent fixture. Where a household fire alarm system is installed, it shall become a permanent fixture of the occupancy, owned by the homeowner.

R314.7.4 Combination detectors. Combination smoke and carbon monoxide detectors shall be permitted to be installed in fire alarm systems in lieu of smoke detectors, provided that they are listed in accordance with UL 268 and UL 2075.