



California State Fire Marshal Information Bulletin 12-08

October 29, 2012

New Requirements for Smoke Alarms

Senate Bill 1394 (Lowenthal) was signed on September 21, 2012 by Governor Brown and chaptered into law. The new law requires smoke alarms listed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal to display the date of manufacture on the device, provide a place on the device where the date of installation can be written. The law also requires that smoke alarms that are battery operated to have a battery with a minimum life of ten (10) years.

- This new law would require that, commencing January 1, 2014, in order to be approved and listed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, a smoke alarm shall display the date of manufacture on the device, provide a place on the device where the date of installation can be written, incorporate a hush feature, incorporate an end-of-life feature that provides notice that the device needs to be replaced, and, if battery operated, contain a non-replaceable, non-removable battery with a minimum 10-year life that is capable of powering the smoke alarm for a minimum of 10 years. This law would also allow the Office of the State Fire Marshal the authority to create exceptions to the above provisions via the regulatory process.
- This law would authorize the Office of the State Fire Marshal the authority to suspend enforcement of the above requirements for no more than six months if it is determined that a sufficient amount of smoke alarms are not available to property owners to meet the requirements of this new law by January 1, 2014.
- 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.

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- The law also extends the requirement for the installation of carbon monoxide devices to all existing hotel and motel dwelling having a fossil fuel burning heater or appliance, fireplace, or an attached garage units 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 questions regarding this new law, please contact Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal James Parsegian at (916) 445-8415 or james.parsegian@fire.ca.gov

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