



Vermont Department of Public Safety **DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY**

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL, THE STATE FIRE ACADEMY AND THE STATE HAZ-MAT TEAM



Updated - April 2014

CODE INFORMATION SHEET

Residential Single Station Smoke Alarm (Detector) Installation Guidelines

	Occupancy	Type	Required Power Supply	Required Locations	Reference	Notes	
NEW Building	OWNER – OCCUPIED Single Free Standing Dwelling	Photoelectric only alarms required to be installed	Hardwired into the building electric system with battery backup.	In the immediate vicinity of sleeping rooms and on all floor levels including the basement.	VSA Title 9 Chapter 77		
	ALL OTHER DWELLING UNITS	Photoelectric only alarms required to be installed	Hardwired into the building electric system with battery backup.	In the immediate vicinity of sleeping rooms, inside each sleeping room and on all floor levels including the basement.	NFPA 101 Section 24.3.4.1 Section 30.3.4.5.1 Section 30.3.4.5.2	All smoke alarms within the dwelling unit must be interconnected.	
EXISTING Building	OWNER – OCCUPIED Single Free Standing Dwelling	Photoelectric only alarms required to be installed at time of transfer by sale or exchange	Built before 01/01/1994 : Hardwired into the building electric system OR by Battery Built after 01/01/1994 : Hardwired into the building electric system with battery backup.	In the immediate vicinity of sleeping rooms and on all floor levels including the basement.	VSA Title 9 Chapter 77	The seller of a single-family dwelling shall certify to the buyer that smoke and CO alarms are installed using the DFS form. See General note # 3	
	1 & 2 DWELLING UNITS IN THE SAME BUILDING	All alarms newly installed or replaced alarms are required to be Photoelectric	All Newly installed and Replacement smoke alarms must be Hardwired into the building electric system with battery backup. By a battery when existing smoke alarm/s is less than ten (10) years from the date of manufacture and is installed in approved locations.	In the immediate vicinity of sleeping rooms and on all floor levels including the basement.	NFPA 101 Section 24.3.4.1.1 Section 9.6.2 And VT Code Amendments Section 9.6.2.11 Section 9.6.2.9.2	Hardwired into the building electric system with battery backup will be required if alarms are not being maintained.	
	3 OR MORE DWELLING UNITS IN THE SAME BUILDING	All alarms newly installed or replaced alarms are required to be Photoelectric	Hardwired into the building electric system with battery backup.	In the immediate vicinity of sleeping rooms and on all floor levels including the basement. Alarms shall be installed inside of all sleeping rooms by 11/1/2015	NFPA 101 Section 31.3.4 Section 31.3.4.5.3 NFPA 72 Section 11.5.4 Section 31.3.4.5.3	See General Note # 5	
General Notes:	<p>1. Combination photoelectric smoke and CO alarms are acceptable for new installations or replacements. Combination smoke alarms that include ionization and photoelectric sensors in the same alarm are not permitted to be used for new installations or replacements.</p> <p>2. Lodging and Rooming Houses or Bed & Breakfast establishments that provide sleeping accommodations for 7 - 16 persons on a transient or permanent basis shall have smoke alarms installed in every sleeping room. Existing battery-powered smoke alarms, shall be permitted where the facility demonstrates that the testing, maintenance, and battery replacement programs will ensure reliability of the smoke alarms. Smoke alarms shall not remain in service longer than 10 years from the date of manufacture. All Newly installed and Replacement smoke alarms must be Hardwired into the building electric system with battery backup.</p> <p>Bed and Breakfast establishments that provide sleeping accommodations for 6 or fewer people, and is occupied by the proprietor may be classified as a single free standing dwelling.</p> <p>3. Smoke alarms shall not remain in service longer than 10 years from the date of manufacture.</p>			<p>4. One and Two family dwellings used as a licensed family day care home (3-12 clients) shall also include single station smoke alarms in each room used for sleeping.</p> <p>5. All smoke alarms within the dwelling unit must be interconnected in new buildings or existing buildings undergoing reconstruction or extensive modification. Smoke alarms required by 31.3.4.5.3 shall be installed in all sleeping rooms by 11/1/2015 at which time all smoke alarms must be electrically wired.</p> <p>6. For stairways leading up from a basement, smoke alarms shall be located on the basement ceiling near the entry to the stairs.</p> <p>7. Existing smoke alarms installed within 20 ft. of a cooking appliance shall be photoelectric type.</p> <p>8. Smoke alarms shall not be installed within 36 in. of a door to a bathroom containing a shower or tub.</p> <p>9. Smoke alarms shall not be installed within 36 in. of forced air heating or cooling system registers or smoke alarms may not be installed within 36 in. from the tip of the blade of a ceiling-suspended (paddle) fan.</p>			