

## **NEW LAWS ADDRESS NEW SMOKE ALARMS - EFFECTIVE MARCH 14, 2006**

Beginning March 14, 2006 .per Public Act 64 of 2004 .building and homeowners have one year to install smoke alarms in their building(s), structure(s) and/or residential dwelling(s) constructed before November 6, 1974 and be compliant with the law

Public Act 65 of 2004 required updates to the 2003 Michigan Building Code, 2003 Michigan Residential Code and 2003 Michigan Rehabilitation Code for Existing Buildings to address the installation procedure for the required smoke alarms. The new smoke alarm rules, which are a result of the laws, become effective March 14, 2006, and are designed to set a minimum standard for structures built prior to November 6, 1974, to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the state.

As of March 14, 2007, each building, structure and residential dwelling shall have smoke alarms installed per the applicable rules in the Michigan Building Code, Michigan Residential Code, and the Michigan Rehabilitation Code for Existing Buildings.

These rules only pertain to buildings constructed PRIOR to November 6, 1974. Construction of all buildings built after November 6, 1974, must follow the codes set forth for new construction.

The amendments must be used in coordination with the 2003 editions of the Michigan Building Code, the Michigan Residential Code and the Michigan Rehabilitation Code for Existing Buildings. The affected pages may be downloaded and printed from the bureau's web site at [www.michigan.gov/bccfs](http://www.michigan.gov/bccfs). These pages should be inserted into the 2003 editions of the Michigan Building, Residential and Rehabilitation code books. These amendments will be reflected in the next edition of the code.

If you do not have copies of the 2003 editions of the Michigan Building Code, Michigan Residential Code and the Michigan Rehabilitation Code for Existing Buildings they are available for purchase for \$65, \$45, and \$42 respectively from the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety, P.O. Box 30255, Lansing, Michigan 48909. Please use the Codes and Standards Order Form found on the bureau's web site at: [www.michigan.gov/bccfs](http://www.michigan.gov/bccfs).

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**DIRECTOR'S OFFICE  
CONSTRUCTION CODE**

Filed with the Secretary of State on December 12, 2005  
These rules take effect March 14, 2006

(By authority conferred on the director of the department of labor and economic growth by section 4 of 1972 PA 230, MCL 125.1504, and Executive Reorganization Order Nos. 1996-2 and 2003-1, MCL 445.2001 and 445.2011)

R 408.30446 of the code is amended to read as follows:

**PART 4: BUILDING CODE**

**R 408.30446 Smoke alarm locations.**

Rule 446 Sections 907.2.10.1.2.1 and 907.2.10.1.2.2 are added to the code as follows:

907.2.10.1.2.1 Smoke alarm locations in existing buildings constructed before November 7, 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.

**Section 907.2.10.1.2.2 Equipment requirements**

907.2.10.1.2.2 The requirement 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 the 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 able to power 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

d. A commercial use alarm system with battery backup listed and approved in accordance with the commercial fire warning equipment provisions of NFPA 72, as adopted by reference in this rule.

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 be considered to comply with the provisions of the code.