



Washington State Building Code Council

Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare

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STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 13-08

CODE: 2012 International Fire Code

SECTION: 908.7

QUESTION 1: Section 908.7, exception #1 of the Fire Code refers to “other than R-2”, while the same section of the Building Code refers to “other than R-3”. Can you please clarify which occupancy it should be?

ANSWER: **Yes. This inconsistency was an error in the filing document. In both the IFC and the IBC the correct citation should be R-2.**

QUESTION 2: Building and Fire Code section 908.7 exception #2 and Fire Code Section 1103.9 exception #4 allow sleeping units meeting certain criteria to not have CO detectors provided that the building is provided with a common area carbon monoxide detection system.

NFPA 720, Section 3.3.22.1 defines a Carbon Monoxide Detection Systems as “A system or portion of a combination system that consists of a control unit, components, and circuits arranged to monitor and annunciate the status of carbon monoxide alarm initiating devices and to initiate the appropriate response to those signals.”

Given this definition, could single station CO detectors placed in the common areas of a building comply with exceptions #2 or #4 referenced above?

ANSWER: **Yes, under some conditions a single station alarm would meet the definition of a household carbon monoxide detection system (NFPA 720 Section 3.3.22.5), where two or more alarms are interconnected (NFPA 720 Section 9.6.4). That decision should be made at the discretion of the local official. You may wish to contact NFPA for additional clarification.**

QUESTION 3: Building and Fire Code Sections 908.7 require that single station carbon monoxide detectors be installed outside of sleeping areas in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.

Is it permissible to install the CO detectors in the sleeping area/bedroom if the dwelling unit has no other rooms?

ANSWER: **Yes. Where CO alarms are required, but there is no other choice for placement as provided in the rules, the alarms may be placed in the bedroom.**

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUEST BY: City of Bellevue