



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE SERVICES
1500 Jefferson, Olympia, WA 98504

Washington State Building Code Council

Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 12-01

CODE: Building Code (WAC 51-50); Fire Code (WAC 51-54)

SECTION: 908.7 Carbon Monoxide Alarms

QUESTION: The exception in section 908.7 allows the CO alarms within sleeping units to be omitted when meeting the conditions in items 1 through 4 in college dormitory buildings that have fuel burning appliances, fire places or attached parking garages. Would CO alarms be required in Group R-2 college dormitory buildings that do not have any fuel burning appliances, fireplaces, or attached parking garages?

ANSWER: No. The exception is intended to include all units in R-1 occupancies and R-2 college dormitories, hotel, and DSHS licensed boarding home and residential treatment facility occupancies, which do not contain a fuel-burning appliance, fuel-burning fire place or an attached garage, and meet the conditions in the exception, items 1 through 4. The reference to buildings with fuel burning appliances, fire places or attached parking garages is intended to be inclusive of those buildings, as well as buildings with no built-in source of CO. For buildings with no built-in source of CO, items 1 through 4 do not apply.

908.7 Carbon monoxide alarms. Group R occupancies shall be provided with carbon monoxide alarms. The carbon monoxide alarms shall be listed as complying with UL 2034 and be installed and maintained in accordance with NFPA 720 and the manufacturer's instructions.

EXCEPTION: Sleeping units or dwelling units in R-1 occupancies and R-2 college dormitories, hotel, and DSHS licensed boarding home and residential treatment facility occupancies which do not themselves contain a fuel-burning appliance, or a fuel-burning fireplace, or have an attached garage, but which are located in a building with a fuel-burning appliance, or a fuel-burning fireplace, or an attached garage, need not be provided with carbon monoxide alarms provided that:

1. The sleeping unit or dwelling unit is not adjacent to any room which contains a fuel-burning appliance, a fuel-burning fireplace, or an attached garage; and
2. The sleeping unit or dwelling unit is not connected by duct work or ventilation shafts with a supply or return register in the same room to any room containing a fuel-burning appliance, a fuel-burning fireplace, or to an attached garage; and
3. The building is provided with a common area carbon monoxide alarm system.

4. An open parking garage, as defined in the *International Building Code*, or enclosed parking garage ventilated in accordance with Section 404 of the *International Mechanical Code* shall not be deemed to be an attached garage.

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUESTED BY: WSU Building Official