



The purpose of this guideline is to specify the types of work exempt from the smoke alarm requirements of the 2012 International Residential Code (IRC), Section R314.

IRC Section, R314.3.1 states “When alterations, repairs or additions requiring a permit occur, or when one or more sleeping rooms are added or created in existing dwellings, the individual dwelling shall be equipped with smoke alarms located as required for new dwellings.” See notes below.

Exception 1 to this code section exempts this requirement for work listed as follows:

- Replacement of roofing or siding.
- Addition or replacement of windows or doors.
- Addition of porch, deck, patio or similar shade structure.
- Installation, alteration or repairs of plumbing or mechanical systems.
- Replacement or upgrade of existing electric service.
- Installation of photovoltaic system or solar water heater.
- Remodel of existing carport to a garage.
- Addition of attached carport, garage or other similar non-conditioned space.

Notes: (If smoke alarms are required)

- IRC Section R314.5 Interconnection. The alarm devices shall be interconnected in such a manner that the actuation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the individual unit.
- IRC Section R314.4 Power Source. Smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring.
- It is recommended that the complete IRC section be reviewed prior to start of construction.