

ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENT FORM
FOR PROPOSED CODE CHANGES
(This form must be submitted electronically)

IRC-14, MR1309.0313 (REV 12-29-2011 FINAL)

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Proposed Code Change - Language

~~**1309.0313 SMOKE ALARMS.**~~

~~**IRC Section R313.2.1 is amended as follows:**~~

~~**R313.2.1 Alterations, repairs, or additions.** 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 unit shall be equipped with smoke alarms located as required for new dwellings, and the smoke alarms shall be interconnected and hardwired.~~

~~**Exceptions:**~~

- ~~1. Interconnection and hardwiring of smoke alarms in existing areas shall not be required to be hardwired where the alterations or repairs do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure.~~
- ~~2. Work on the exterior surfaces of dwellings, such as the replacement of roofing or siding are exempt from the requirements of this section.~~
- ~~3. Permits involving alterations or repairs to plumbing, electrical, and mechanical are exempt from the requirements of this section.~~

Proposed Code Change – Need and Reason

The smoke alarm rules in the IRC have been renumbered so the current amendment has the wrong code sections cited and is therefore incorrect. The current IRC language is more easily understood and enforceable. The current state amended language is confusing and leads to lack of uniformity and there is nothing specific to Minnesota that warrants modification. It also exempts new alarms from being hardwired but doesn't exclude them from being interconnected. It states that work on the exterior surfaces of the dwelling is exempt but it is unclear if a deck is considered an addition. It appears that it is not because it doesn't have walls. This proposal would result in the language in the 2012 IRC being the governing language which is much clearer. It is necessary to avoid conflict due to renumbering of sections that this amended language be deleted. It is reasonable to follow the model code language in the IRC because there is nothing unique regarding fires or fire deaths in Minnesota.

Current IRC language for information

R314.3.1 Alterations, repairs and additions. 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 unit* shall be equipped with smoke alarms located as required for new *dwellings*.

Exceptions:

1. Work involving the exterior surfaces of *dwellings*, such as the replacement of roofing or siding, or the *addition* or replacement of windows or doors, or the *addition* of a porch or deck, are exempt from the requirements of this section.
2. Installation, *alteration* or repairs of plumbing or mechanical systems are exempt from the requirements of this section.

Proposed Code Change – Cost/Benefit Analysis

This proposal will have no impact on the cost of construction.

Other Factors to Consider Related to Proposed Code Change

1. Is this proposed code change meant to:

change language contained in a published code book? If so, list section(s).

change language contained in an existing amendment in Minnesota Rule? If so, list Rule part(s).

delete language contained in a published code book? If so, list section(s).

delete language contained in an existing amendment in Minnesota Rule? If so, list Rule part(s).

1309.0313

neither; this language will be new language, not found in the code book or in Minnesota Rule.

2. Is this proposed code change required by a Minnesota Statute or new legislation? If so, please provide the citation to the Statute or legislation.

No

3. Will this proposed code change impact other sections of a published code book or of an amendment in Minnesota Rule? If so, please list the affected sections or rule parts.

No

4. Will this proposed code change impact other parts of the Minnesota State Building Code? If so, please list the affected parts of the Minnesota State Building Code.

No

5. Who are the parties affected or segments of industry affected by this proposed code change?

Code officials, building designers, contractors, building owners

6. Can you think of other means or methods to achieve the purpose of the proposed code change? If so, please explain what they are and why your proposed change is the preferred method or means to achieve the desired result.

No

7. Are you aware of any federal requirement or regulation related to this proposed code change? If so, please list the regulation or requirement.

No