SMOKE & CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

British Columbia Building Code 2012

Division B - Part 9

9.10.18.6. Portions of Buildings Considered as Separate Buildings

- 1) Except as provided in Sentence (2), where a vertical *fire separation* having a *fire-resistance rating* of not less than 1 h separates a portion of a *building* from the remainder of the *building* and there are no openings through the *fire separation* other than those for piping, tubing, wiring and conduit, the requirements for fire alarm and detection systems may be applied to each portion so separated as if it were a separate *building*.
- 2) The permission in Sentence (1) to consider separated portions of a *building* as separate *buildings* does not apply to *service rooms* and storage rooms.

9.10.18.7. Central Vacuum Systems

1) Central vacuum cleaning systems <serving more than one *suite* or *storey*> in *buildings* equipped with a fire alarm system shall be designed to shut down upon activation of the fire alarm system.

9.10.18.8. Open-Air Storage Garages

1) A fire alarm system is not required in a *storage garage* conforming to Article 3.2.2.88, provided there are no other occupancies in the building.

9.10.19. Smoke Alarms

9.10.19.1. Required Smoke Alarms

- 1) Smoke alarms conforming to CAN/ULC-S531, "Smoke-Alarms," shall be installed in
- a) each dwelling unit, and
- b) each sleeping room not within a dwelling unit.

9.10.19.2. <Sound Patterns of Smoke Alarms

- 1) The sound patterns of smoke alarms shall
- a) meet the temporal patterns of alarm signals (see A-3.2.4.19.(2) in Appendix A), or
- b) be a combination of temporal pattern and voice relay.>

9.10.19.3. Location of Smoke Alarms

- 1) Within dwelling units, sufficient smoke alarms shall be installed so that
- a) there is at least one smoke alarm <installed> on each <storey>, including basements, and
- b) <on any storey of a dwelling unit containing sleeping rooms, a smoke alarm is installed>
 - i) <in each sleeping room, and>
 - ii) <in a location between the sleeping rooms and the remainder of the storey, and if the sleeping rooms are served by a hallway, the smoke alarm shall be located in the hallway.>

(See Appendix A.)

- 2) <A smoke alarm required by Sentence (1) shall be installed in conformance with CAN/ULC-S553, "Installation of Smoke-Alarms.">
 - 3) Smoke alarms required in Article 9.10.19.1. and Sentence (1) shall be installed on or near the ceiling.

9.10.19.4. Power Supply

- Except as provided in Sentences (2) and (3), smoke alarms < described in Sentence 9.10.19.1.(1) shall
- a) be installed with permanent connections to an electrical circuit <(see A-3.2.4.21.(6)(a) in Appendix A),>
- b) have no disconnect switch between the overcurrent device and the smoke alarm, and
- c) <in case the regular power supply to the smoke alarm is interrupted, be provided with a battery as an alternative power source that can continue to provide power to the smoke alarm for a period of no less than 7 days in the normal condition, followed by 4 minutes of alarm.>
- Where the building is not supplied with electrical power, smoke alarms are permitted to be battery-operated.
- Suites of residential occupancy are permitted to be equipped with smoke detectors in lieu of smoke alarms, provided the smoke detectors
 - a) are capable of independently sounding audible signals within the individual suites,
 - except as permitted in Sentence (4), are installed in conformance with CAN/ULC-S524, "Installation of Fire Alarm Systems," and
 - c) form part of the fire alarm system.

(See A-3.2.4.21.(7) in Appendix A.)

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- 2) Where additional make-up air is required for appliances described in Sentence (1), it shall be provided by
- a) supply ducts sized in conformance with Table 9.32.3.8. for requirements of 60 l/s or less, or
- a supply fan rated to deliver outdoor air at the rate of the installed exhaust appliance.
- The supply fan as required in Clause (2)(b) shall be interconnected with the exhaust fan for which make-up air is required.
 - 4) The outdoor air required by Sentence (3) shall be
 - a) tempered to at least 1°C before being introduced to a normally unoccupied area of the dwelling unit, or
 - tempered to at least 12°C before being introduced to occupied areas either by passive transfer grille or directly from outside.

9.32.4.2. Carbon Monoxide Alarms

(See Appendix A.)

- 1) This Article applies to every building that contains a residential occupancy and that also contains
- a) a fuel-burning appliance, or
- a storage garage.
- 2) Carbon monoxide (CO) alarms required by this Article shall
- a) conform to CAN/CSA-6.19, "Residential Carbon Monoxide Alarming Devices,"
- b) be equipped with an integral alarm that satisfies the audibility requirements of CAN/CSA-6.19, "Residential Carbon Monoxide Alarming Devices."
- have no disconnect switch between the overcurrent device and the CO alarm, where the CO alarm is powered by the dwelling unit's electrical system, and
- d) be mechanically fixed at a height recommended by the <manufacturer's instructions>.
- 3) <Where a room contains a solid-fuel-burning appliance,> a CO alarm conforming to CAN/CSA-6.19, "Residential Carbon Monoxide Alarming Devices." shall be mechanically fixed
 - a) <at a height recommended by the manufacturer's instructions where those instructions specifically mention solidfuel-burning appliances, or>
 - In the absence of specific instructions related to solid-fuel-burning appliances, on or near the ceiling.
 - 4) Where a fuel-burning appliance is installed in a suite of residential occupancy, a CO alarm shall be installed
 - a) inside each bedroom, or
 - b) outside each bedroom, within 5 m of each bedroom door, measured following corridors and doorways.
- 5) Where a fuel-burning appliance is installed in a service room that is not in a suite of residential occupancy, a CO alarm shall be installed
 - a) in the service room, and
 - b) for every suite of residential occupancy that shares a wall or floor/ceiling assembly with that service room, either
 - i) inside each bedroom, or
 - ii) outside each bedroom, within 5 m of each bedroom door, measured following corridors and doorways.
- 6) For each suite of residential occupancy that shares a wall or floor/ceiling assembly with a storage garage or that is adjacent to an attic or crawl space to which the storage garage is also adjacent, a CO alarm shall be installed
 - a) inside each bedroom, or
 - b) outside each bedroom, within 5 m of each bedroom door, measured following corridors and doorways,
- 7) Where CO alarms are installed in a house with a secondary suite including their common spaces, the CO alarms shall be wired so that the activation of any one CO alarm causes all CO alarms within the house with a secondary suite including their common spaces to sound.