



## California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	June 28, 2015	Interpretation	15-001
Topic	Capability of Visible Alarms		
Code Section(s)	2013 CBC 907.5.2.3.4		
Requested by	Pyro-Comm Systems, Inc. Kyle J. Schuler, SET		
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### Questions:

**Does the California Building Code (CBC) Section 907.5.2.3.4, require that dwelling and sleeping unit bathrooms be prewire for the capability to support visible alarms in Group R-2 occupancies.**

**Answer: Yes.** The fire alarm must have the capability to support visible alarms. Section 907.5.2.3.4 is primarily model code language. The 2013 CBC is based on the 2012 International Building Code (IBC). Due to this being model code language, the Office of the State Fire Marshal has not changed the intent of the model code by amendments and therefore defers to the *2012 IBC Code and Commentary*. The commentary reads as follows:

There has been confusion in the past and it has been interpreted that all units are required to be prewired for visible appliances. More specifically, now the requirements provide essentially three options for future capability, as follows:

- Potential for future interconnection of the building fire alarm system with the unit smoke alarms.
- Replacement of audible appliances with combination audible/visible appliances.
- Extension of wiring from the unit smoke alarm locations to required locations of visible appliances.

It is import to remember that the location of visible notification device, if installed, are driven by the requirements of NFPA 72 and may vary the approach taken, based on the configuration of the space.