



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

Date Issued	November 12, 2015	Interpretation	15-001 Revised
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 prewired for the capability to support visible alarms in Group R-2 occupancies.**

**Answer: No.** Section 907.5.2.3.4 states “In Group R-2 occupancies required by Section 907 to have a fire alarm system, all dwelling units and sleeping units shall be provided with the capability to support visible alarm notification appliances in accordance with NFPA 72. Such capability shall be permitted to include the potential for future interconnection of the building fire alarm system with the unit smoke alarms, replacement of audible appliances with combination audible/visible appliances, or future extension of the existing wiring from the unit smoke alarm locations to required locations for visible appliances.”

Since NFPA 72 requires the installation of audible notification appliances in sleeping areas i.e. bedrooms and living spaces, Section 907.5.2.3.4 does not provide direction to pre-wire or install visual notification within R-2 occupancy bathrooms. Section 907.5.2.3.1 does have requirements to install visible notification appliances within public sanitary facilities including restrooms, bathrooms, and shower rooms not private occupancies such as an R-2.

Section 907.5.2.3.4 does give the designer three options to choose from to accommodate someone with a hearing impairment in the future which include the following:

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