

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

P.O. Box 944246  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460  
(916) 653-7772  
Website: [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)



**Date: December 27, 2012**

**To: State Board of Fire Services**

**From: Ben Ho  
Division Chief  
Fire Engineering/Arson Bomb**

**Subject/Agenda Action Item:**

The Implementation of Senate Bill 1394 (Lowenthal). This is for information only and no action is required.

**Recommended Actions: N/A**

**Background Information:**

Senate Bill 1394 (Lowenthal) was signed on September 21, 2012, by Governor Brown and chaptered into law. This new law would require that, commencing January 1, 2014, in order to be approved and listed by the CAL FIRE-Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), a smoke alarm shall display the date of manufacture on the device, provide a place on the device where the date of installation can be written, incorporate a hush feature, incorporate an end-of-life feature that provides notice that the device needs to be replaced, and, if battery operated, contain a non-replaceable, non-removable battery with a minimum 10-year life. This law would also give the OSFM the authority to create exceptions to the above provisions and suspend enforcement of the new smoke alarm requirements for six months via the regulatory process.

**Analysis/Summary of Issue:**

The OSFM is working through with the Fire Alarm Advisory Committee, the fire alarm industry, the fire service, Underwriters Laboratories In. (UL) to preparing regulations to implement the Building Material Listing Program requirements for SB 1394. The OSFM staff met with the smoke alarm manufacturers and UL and Intertek representatives on December 12, 2012 and brought to their attention that a new law that could impact your company's ability to do business in California. The OSFM has adopted UL 217 and that standard is being used to evaluate and approve smoke alarms for listing. Currently, UL has not proposed any language to revise UL 217 to include a test protocol for an end-of-life of the device feature

to providing notice that the device needs to be replaced. UL representatives were at the meeting and they discussed the standard approval process and the Certification Requirement Decision (CRD) through the standard technical panel. We are currently working with UL in this process and it could take up to three years to get the test protocol developed and the revised standard approved. We will meet with UL shortly to discuss the SFM requirement for the end-of-life of the device feature.

Until the test protocol is developed and the revised standard is approved, the OSFM will be unable to approve/list any smoke alarm as of January 1, 2014.