



# APPENDIX C CODE CHANGE PROPOSAL NORTH CAROLINA BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

B-10

325 North Salisbury Street, Room 5\_44  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603  
(919) 647-0009  
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Granted by BCC \_\_\_\_\_ Adopted by BCC \_\_\_\_\_ Item Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Denied by BCC \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved by BCC \_\_\_\_\_ Approved by RRC \_\_\_\_\_  
Objection by RRC \_\_\_\_\_

PROPONENT: Jason B. Shepherd PHONE: (919) 201-6638  
REPRESENTING: NC Building Code Council Fire Service Representative  
ADDRESS: 120 E. Parrish Street, Suite 100  
CITY: Durham STATE: NC ZIP: 27701  
E-MAIL: jshepherd@dconc.gov

North Carolina State Building Code and North Carolina State Fire Code 2024 - Section 907.2.3.1

CHECK ONE: [ ] Revise section to read as follows: [ ] Delete section and substitute the following:  
[ X ] Add new section to read as follows: [ ] Delete section without substitution:

~~LINE THROUGH MATERIAL TO BE DELETED~~ UNDERLINE MATERIAL TO BE ADDED

Please type. Continue proposal or reason on plain paper attached to this form. See reverse side for instructions.

See attached forms.

Will this proposal change the cost of construction? Decrease [ ] Increase [ X ] No [ ]  
Will this proposal increase to the cost of a dwelling by \$80 or more? Yes [ ] No [ X ]  
Will this proposal affect the Local or State funds? Local [ X ] State [ ] No [ ]  
Will this proposal cause a substantial economic impact (≥\$1,000,000)? Yes [ ] No [ X ]

- Non-Substantial – Provide an economic analysis including benefit/cost estimates.
- Substantial – The economic analysis must also include 2-alternatives, time value of money and risk analysis.
- Pursuant to §143-138(a1)(2) a cost-benefit analysis is required for all proposed amendments to the NC Energy Conservation Code. The Building Code Council shall also require same for the NC Residential Code, Chapter 11.

**REASON:** Community school buildings are the most important facilities in our local communities. Current required manual fire alarm systems do not provide adequate notification when the building isn't occupied. Due to the increase of introducing kitchen appliances in these buildings, there are documented fires that have happened, and this instance was discovered by a motion detector burglar alarm. If fires occur in these occupancies without prompt notification to responding agencies, we have the potential to lose a valuable community structure. Risk reduction is driving this code change. It is imperative we maintain a healthy community by providing early detection in these facilities where we have a chance for responding firefighters to act in earlier stages of fire development.

BCC CODE CHANGES

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 05 APR 2023 FORM 11/26/19

## INSTRUCTIONS

**Each proposed Code change request shall comply with the following policies:**

**Rule 1:** The Original and twenty-two (22) copies of the proposed Petition for Rule-Making along with supporting documentation shall be filed with the Building Code Council Secretary. Submit one (1) electronic copy via email.

**Rule 2:** The filing shall be received by the first day of the month prior to the quarterly scheduled meeting date. Example: A December meeting date will require filing by November 1 prior to the meeting.

**Rule 3:** Each request shall be typewritten on this form and shall contain the following:

- (1) The proposed rule change must be set forth in full and contain explicit reference to the affected section or sections of the Code.
- (2) The request shall state the reasons for the proposed rule change with supporting documentation.
- (3) The proposed rule change shall comply with the standards set forth in GS 143-138(c) and reference to the particular standards shall be set forth in the request for the amendment.
- (4) The proposed rule change shall contain an economic impact analysis as required by GS 143-138(a).
- (5) A proposed rule change to the NC Energy Conservation Code shall have an accompanying cost-benefit analysis as required by GS 143-138(a1)(2).

**Rule 4:** When a request is improperly filed or not in accordance with all the rules listed above, the BCC Secretary shall reject the submittal and notify the applicant of the proper procedure to follow.

**Rule 5:** Upon the proper filing of a request, the BCC Secretary shall forward one copy of said request to each council member prior to the scheduled meeting date. Persons filing proposed petitions are hereby notified of the place and time of the scheduled hearings. The BCC Secretary shall cause to be published the notice of public hearing as specified in GS 143-138(a).

**Rule 6:** The Council shall either Grant or Deny the proposed Petition for Rulemaking at the meeting following receipt of the proposed rule change. The Council will take no further action on items that are Denied. Granted items may be referred to Committee for review.

**Rule 7:** The Council will hold a public hearing on Granted items at the next quarterly scheduled meeting. The Council will take final action on Granted items at the next quarterly scheduled meeting after the public hearing.

### Timeline Example

<b>Petition received:</b>	<b>February 1</b>
<b>Petition Granted:</b>	<b>March BCC meeting</b>
<b>Notice of Hearing published:</b>	<b>April NC Register</b>
<b>Committee review:</b>	<b>May - June</b>
<b>Hearing held:</b>	<b>June BCC meeting</b>
<b>Final Adoption:</b>	<b>September BCC meeting</b>
<b>Rules Review Meeting:</b>	<b>November RRC meeting</b>
<b>Approved:</b>	<b>December 1</b>

## 2024 NC Building Code

**907.2.3 Group E. Manual fire alarm system.** A manual fire alarm system that initiates the occupant notification signal utilizing an emergency voice/alarm communication system meeting the requirements of Section 907.5.2.2 and installed in accordance with Section 907.6 shall be installed in Group E occupancies. Where *automatic sprinkler systems* or smoke detectors are installed, such as systems or detectors shall be connected to the building fire alarm system.

### Exceptions:

1. In other than licensed day care facilities complying with Section 429, a manual fire alarm system shall not be required in Group E occupancies with an *occupant load* of 50 or less.
2. Emergency voice/alarm communication systems meeting the requirements of Section 907.5.2.2 and installed in accordance with Section 907.6 shall not be required in Group E occupancies with occupant loads of 100 or less, provided that activation of the manual fire alarm system initiates an *approved* occupant notification signal in accordance with Section 907.5.
3. Manual fire alarm boxes shall not be required in Group E occupancies where all of the following apply:
  - 3.1 Interior *corridors* are protected by smoke detectors.
  - 3.2 Auditoriums, cafeterias, gymnasiums and similar areas are protected by *heat detectors* or other *approved* detection devices.
  - 3.3 Shops and laboratories involving dusts or vapors are protected by *heat detectors* or other *approved* detection devices.
  - 3.4 Manual activation is provided from a normally occupied location.
4. Manual fire alarm boxes shall not be required in Group E occupancies where all of the following apply:
  - 4.1 The building is equipped throughout with an *approved automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.
  - 4.2 The emergency voice/alarm communication system will activate on sprinkler water flow.
  - 4.3 Manual activation is provided from a normally occupied location.

### **907.2.3.1 Automatic smoke detection systems.**

An automatic smoke detection system that initiates the occupant notification in accordance with Section 907.5.2.2 shall be installed throughout all stories of Group E buildings.

### Exceptions:

1. An automatic smoke detection system shall not be required in Group E occupancies with an *occupant load* of 50 or less.
2. An automatic smoke detection system shall not be required in Group E occupancies that are protected with an *approved automatic sprinkler systems* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.
3. An automatic smoke detection system shall not be required in licensed day care facilities complying with Section 429.

## 2024 NC Fire Code

### 907.2.3 Group E. Manual fire alarm system.

A manual fire alarm system that initiates the occupant notification signal utilizing an emergency voice/alarm communication system meeting the requirements of Section 907.5.2.2 and installed in accordance with Section 907.6 shall be installed in Group E occupancies. Where *automatic sprinkler systems* or smoke detectors are installed, such as systems or detectors shall be connected to the building fire alarm system.

#### Exceptions:

1. In other than licensed day care facilities complying with Section 429 of the *International Building Code*, a manual fire alarm system shall not be required in Group E occupancies with an *occupant load* of 50 or less.
2. Emergency voice/alarm communication systems meeting the requirements of Section 907.5.2.2 and installed in accordance with Section 907.6 shall not be required in Group E occupancies with occupant loads of 100 or less, provided that activation of the manual fire alarm system initiates an *approved* occupant notification signal in accordance with Section 907.5.
3. Manual fire alarm boxes shall not be required in Group E occupancies where all of the following apply:
  - 5.1 Interior *corridors* are protected by smoke detectors.
  - 5.2 Auditoriums, cafeterias, gymnasiums and similar areas are protected by *heat detectors* or other *approved* detection devices.
  - 5.3 Shops and laboratories involving dusts or vapors are protected by *heat detectors* or other *approved* detection devices.
  - 5.4 Manual activation is provided from a normally occupied location.
- 6 Manual fire alarm boxes shall not be required in Group E occupancies where all of the following apply:
  - 6.1 The building is equipped throughout with an *approved automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.
  - 6.2 The emergency voice/alarm communication system will activate on sprinkler water flow.
  - 6.3 Manual activation is provided from a normally occupied location.

### 907.2.3.1 Automatic smoke detection systems.

An automatic smoke detection system that initiates the occupant notification in accordance with Section 907.5.2.2 shall be installed throughout all stories of Group E buildings.

#### Exceptions:

1. An automatic smoke detection system shall not be required in Group E occupancies with an *occupant load* of 50 or less.
2. An automatic smoke detection system shall not be required in Group E occupancies that are protected with an *approved automatic sprinkler systems* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.