

## INFORMAL CODE INTERPRETATION

NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202  
919-661-5880

### Smoke Detectors in Attics

**Code:** 2012 Residential Code

**Date:** July 2, 2012

**Section:** R314.3

**Question:**

I have an attic with access from permanent stairs meeting the Residential Code, a ceiling height of 7 feet and floored over 75% of the area. Is a smoke detector required for this area?

**Answers:**

No.

A smoke detector is not required unless the attic area is finished and meets the definition of "habitable" in Section 202.

Yes.

A smoke detector is required if the attic space meets the definition of "attic, habitable" in Section 202.