



A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO NFPA 101 LIFE SAFETY CODE

FOR REQUIRED FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS BY OCCUPANCY TYPE
(LOCAL JURISDICTIONS MAY REQUIRE OTHER SPECIFICATIONS)

CONDOMINIUMS AND APARTMENT BUILDINGS – A building containing three or more dwelling units with independent cooking and bathroom facilities. New and Existing: Buildings more than 3 stories or more than 11 dwelling units, other than those meeting the noted exceptions in 30.3.4.1.2 or 30.3.4.1.3, shall be provided with a fire alarm. Exception: A condominium or multifamily less than four stories in height and having an exterior corridor providing a means of egress is exempt from installing a manual fire alarm system.

Hotels and Dormitories – Hotel: A building or group of buildings under the same management in with sleeping accommodations for more than 16 persons and primarily used by transients with or without meals. Dormitory: A building or a space in a building in which group(s) sleeping accommodations are provided for more than 16 persons not members of the same family in one room, or series of closely associated rooms, under joint occupancy and single management, with or without meals, but without individual cooking facilities. New: Shall be provided with a fire alarm system. Existing: Shall have a fire alarm system in buildings other than those where each guest room has an exterior exit access in accordance with 7.5.3 and the building does not exceed three stories in height.

Health Care – An occupancy used for purposes of medical or other treatment or care of four or more persons where such occupants are mostly incapable of self-preservation due to age, physical or mental disability, or because of security measures not under the occupants' control. This includes hospitals and nursing homes. New and Existing: Shall be provided with a fire alarm system.

Assembly – An occupancy (1) used for a gathering of 50 or more persons for deliberation, worship, entertainment, eating, drinking, amusement, awaiting transportation, or similar uses; or (2) used as a special amusement building, regardless of occupant load. New and Existing: Assembly occupancies with occupant loads of more than 300 and all theaters with more than one viewing room shall be provided with a fire alarm system.

Business – Occupancy used for the transaction of business other than Mercantile. New: A fire alarm system shall be provided in business occupancies where any one of the following conditions exist: (1) The building is two or more stories in height above the level of exit; (2) The occupancy is subject to 100 or more occupants above or below the level of exit discharge, (3) The occupancy is subject to 1,000 or total occupants.

Educational – An occupancy used for educational purposed through the 12th grade by 6 or more persons for 4 or more hours per day or more than 12 hours per week. New and Existing: Educational occupancies shall be provided with a fire alarm system except where all of the following criteria are met: (1) Buildings having an area not exceeding 1,000 sq. ft., (2) Buildings containing a single classroom (3) Buildings located not less than 30 ft. from another building.

Ambulatory Health Care – A building or portion used to provide services or treatment simultaneously to four or more patients that provide, on an outpatient basis, one or more of the following: (1) Treatment that renders the patients incapable of taking action for self-preservation under emergency conditions without assistance from others; (2) Anesthesia that renders patients incapable of taking action for self-preservation under emergency conditions without assistance of others. New and Existing: Ambulatory Health Care occupancies shall be provided with a fire alarm system.



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Day-Care – An occupancy in which four or more clients receive care, maintenance, and supervision, by other than their relatives or legal guardians, for less than 24 hours per day. New and Existing: Day-Care occupancies, other than day-care occupancies housed in one room, shall be provided with a fire alarm system.

Industrial – An occupancy in which products are manufactured or in which processing, assembling, mixing, packaging, finishing, decorating, or repair operations are conducted, New and Existing: A fire alarm system is required, unless the total capacity of the building is under 100 persons and, of these, fewer than 25 persons are above or below the level of exit discharge.

Mercantile – An occupancy used for the display and sale of merchandise. New and Existing: Class A (more than 30,000 SF) mercantile occupancies shall be provided with a fire alarm system.

Residential Board and Care – A building or portion thereof that is used for lodging and boarding of four or more residents, not related by blood or marriage to the owners or operators, for the purpose of providing personal care services. Small facilities provide sleeping accommodations for not more than 16 residents and large facilities more than 16. New: Whether small or large shall be provided with a fire alarm system. Existing: Small occupancies shall be provided with a fire alarm system, unless the provisions of 33.2.3.4.1.1 or 33.2.3.4.1.2 are met. Large occupancies shall be provided with a fire alarm system, unless each sleeping room has an exterior exit in accordance with 7.5.3, and the building is not more than three stories in height.

Storage – An occupancy used primarily for the storage or sheltering of goods, merchandise, products, vehicles or animals. New and Existing: A fire alarm system is required for storage occupancies, except as modified by 42.3.4.1.1, 42.3.4.1.2 and 42.3.4.1.3.

Sprinklered Buildings – All buildings with a sprinkler system must minimally have a fire alarm system monitoring the sprinkler system and configured to transmit to a remote monitoring service.

ALL EXCERPTS ARE BASED ON NFPA 101 2006 EDITION. THIS OUTLINE IS PROVIDED AS A QUICK REFERENCE. THE ENTIRE LIFE SAFETY CODE SHOULD ALWAYS BE CONSULTED TO DETERMINE EXACT AND ALL REQUIREMENTS.



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