



# RULE-MAKING ORDER

**CR-103E (July 2011)**  
**(Implements RCW 34.05.350)**

**Agency:** Washington State Building Code Council

**Emergency Rule Only**

**Effective date of rule:**

**Emergency Rules**

- Immediately upon filing.
- Later (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?**

- Yes
  - No
- If Yes, explain:

**Purpose:** The purpose of this action is to amend a section of a rule filed on April 25, 2017 as WSR 17-10-028. This action will amend currently adopted language in Section 907 Fire Alarm and Detection Systems. The state building code council convened a technical advisory group to develop this amendment to provide options for compliance with current codes and safe school law.

**Citation of existing rules affected by this order:**

Repealed:  
 Amended: WAC 51-54A-0907  
 Suspended:

**Statutory authority for adoption:RCW 19.27**

**Other authority :**

**EMERGENCY RULE**

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds:

- That immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.
- That state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.
- That in order to implement the requirements or reductions in appropriations enacted in any budget for fiscal year 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, or 2013, which necessitates the need for the immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the fiscal needs or requirements of the agency.

**Reasons for this finding:** The 2016 Legislature took action to modify the requirements of this section under ESHB 2380.SL/New Section 6012. A new section is added to 2015 3rd32sp.s. c 3 (uncodified) to read as follows: To avoid unnecessary duplication of infrastructure installation and reduce school construction costs funded through the school construction assistance program in this budget, the Building Code Council adopted emergency amendments as directed by the legislature to provide that buildings classed as E occupancies, as defined in the state building code, are not required to install an emergency voice alarm system as defined in the 2012 International Building Code and International Fire Code section 907.2.3. The school district must comply with RCW 28A.320.126 by working collaboratively with local law enforcement agencies to develop an emergency response system using evolving technologies and the school district must adopt a safe school plan under RCW 28A.320.125. The state building code council technical advisory group worked with stakeholders to develop amendatory language for emergency and permanent rulemaking.

**Date adopted:** May 12, 2017

**NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)**

Steve Simpson

**SIGNATURE**

**TITLE**

Chair, State Building Code Council

**CODE REVISER USE ONLY**

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

**DATE: June 16, 2017**

**TIME: 2:57 PM**

**WSR 17-13-078**

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.  
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.  
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

**The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:**

<b>Federal statute:</b>	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
<b>Federal rules or standards:</b>	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
<b>Recently enacted state statutes:</b>	New	_____	Amended	<u>1</u>	Repealed	_____

**The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:**

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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**The number of sections adopted in the agency's own initiative:**

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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**The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:**

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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**The number of sections adopted using:**

<b>Negotiated rule making:</b>	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
<b>Pilot rule making:</b>	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
<b>Other alternative rule making:</b>	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

**WAC 51-54A-0907 Fire alarm and detection systems.**

~~907.2.3 Group E. ((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. When automatic sprinkler systems or smoke detectors are installed, such systems or detectors shall be connected to the building fire alarm system.~~

EXCEPTIONS: 1. A manual fire alarm system is not 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 are not 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.  
4. Manual fire alarm boxes shall not be required in Group E occupancies where the building is equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, the emergency voice/alarm communication system will activate on sprinkler water flow and manual activation.))

Group E occupancies shall be provided with a manual fire alarm system that initiates the occupant notification signal utilizing one of the following:

1. An emergency voice/alarm communication system meeting the requirements of Section 907.5.2.2 and installed in accordance with Section 907.6; or

2. A system developed as part of a safe school plan adopted in accordance with RCW 28A.320.125 or developed as part of an emergency response system consistent with the provisions of RCW 28A.320.126. The system must achieve all of the following performance standards:

2.1 The ability to broadcast voice messages or customized announcements;

2.2 Includes a feature for multiple sounds, including sounds to initiate a lock down;

2.3 The ability to deliver messages to the interior of a building, areas outside of a building as designated pursuant to the safe school plan, and to personnel;

2.4 The ability for two-way communications;

2.5 The ability for individual room calling;

2.6 The ability for a manual override;

2.7 Installation in accordance with NFPA 72;

2.8 Provide 15 minutes of battery backup for alarm and 24 hours of battery backup for standby; and

2.9 Includes a program for annual inspection and maintenance in accordance with NFPA 72.

Exceptions: 1. A manual fire alarm system is not 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, such as individual portable school classroom buildings; provided that activation of the manual fire alarm system initiates an approved occupant notification signal in accordance with Section 907.5.

3. Where an existing approved alarm system is in place, an emergency voice/alarm system is not required in any portion of an existing Group E building undergoing any one of the following repairs, alteration or addition:

3.1 Alteration or repair to an existing building including, without limitation, alterations to rooms and systems, and/or corridor configurations, not exceeding 35 percent of the fire area of the building

(or the fire area undergoing the alteration or repair if the building is comprised of two or more fire areas); or

3.2 An addition to an existing building, not exceeding 35 percent of the fire area of the building (or the fire area to which the addition is made if the building is comprised of two or more fire areas).

4. Manual fire alarm boxes are not required in Group E occupancies where all of the following apply:

4.1 Interior corridors are protected by smoke detectors.

4.2 Auditoriums, cafeterias, gymnasiums and similar areas are protected by heat detectors or other approved detection devices.

4.3 Shops and laboratories involving dusts or vapors are protected by heat detectors or other approved detection devices.

5. Manual fire alarm boxes shall not be required in Group E occupancies where all of the following apply:

5.1 The building is equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.

5.2 The emergency voice/alarm communication system will activate on sprinkler waterflow.

5.3 Manual activation is provided from a normally occupied location.

**907.2.3.1 Sprinkler systems or detection.** When automatic sprinkler systems or smoke detectors are installed, such systems or detectors shall be connected to the building fire alarm system.

**907.2.6 Group I.** A manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system shall be installed in Group I occupancies. An automatic smoke detection system that notifies the occupant notification system shall be provided in accordance with Sections 907.2.6.1, 907.2.6.2, 907.2.6.3.3 and 907.2.6.4.

EXCEPTIONS: 1. Manual fire alarm boxes in resident or patient sleeping areas of Group I-1 and I-2 occupancies shall not be required at exits if located at nurses' control stations or other constantly attended staff locations, provided such stations are visible and continually accessible and that travel distances required in Section 907.4.2 are not exceeded.  
2. Occupant notification systems are not required to be activated where private mode signaling installed in accordance with NFPA 72 is approved by the fire code official.

**907.2.6.1 Group I-1.** An automatic smoke detection system shall be installed in corridors, waiting areas open to corridors and habitable spaces other than sleeping units and kitchens. The system shall be activated in accordance with Section 907.4.

EXCEPTIONS: 1. For Group I-1 Condition 1 occupancies, smoke detection in habitable spaces is not required where the facility is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.  
2. Smoke detection is not required for exterior balconies.

**907.2.6.4 Group I-4 occupancies.** 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 I-4 occupancies. When automatic sprinkler systems or smoke detectors are installed, such systems or detectors shall be connected to the building fire alarm system.

EXCEPTIONS: 1. A manual fire alarm system is not required in Group I-4 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 I-4 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.

**907.5.2.1.2 Maximum sound pressure.** The maximum sound pressure level for audible alarm notification appliances shall be 110 dBA at the minimum hearing distance from the audible appliance. For systems operating in public mode, the maximum sound pressure level shall not exceed 30 dBA over the average ambient sound level. Where the average ambient noise is greater than 95 dBA, visible alarm notification appliances

shall be provided in accordance with NFPA 72 and audible alarm notification appliances shall not be required.

**907.10 NICET: National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies.**

**907.10.1 Scope.** This section shall apply to new and existing fire alarm systems.

**907.10.2 Design review:** All construction documents shall be reviewed by a NICET III in fire alarms or a licensed professional engineer (PE) in Washington prior to being submitted for permitting. The reviewing professional shall submit a stamped, signed, and dated letter; or a verification method approved by the local authority having jurisdiction indicating the system has been reviewed and meets or exceeds the design requirements of the state of Washington and the local jurisdiction (effective July 1, ((2017)) 2018).

**907.10.3 Testing/maintenance:** All inspection, testing, maintenance and programming not defined as "*electrical construction trade*" by chapter 19.28 RCW shall be completed by a NICET II in fire alarms (effective July 1, ((2017)) 2018).