

**STATE OF WASHINGTON**

**STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL**

**15-012**

# State Building Code to be Amended:

International Building Code State Energy Code

ICC ANSI A117.1 Accessibility Code International Mechanical Code International Existing Building Code International Fuel Gas Code International Residential Code NFPA 54 National Fuel Gas Code

International Fire Code NFPA 58 Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code

Uniform Plumbing Code Wildland Urban Interface Code

# Section: Washington State Amendment to 2015 IFC Section 907.2.9.1.1 New Page: 124 Title: Group R-2 manual fire alarm system.

1. **Proponent Name (Specific local government, organization or individual): Proponent: Department of Health: Construction Review Services Title:**

**Date: 2/2015**

1. **Designated Contact Person: Name: Mina Zarelli Title: Senior Plans Reviewer**

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February 20, 2015

# Proposed Code Amendment.

**Code(s)** \_IFC, IBC

# Section(s)

907.2.9.1.1

**Current Washington State Amendment:**

**907.2.9.1.1 Group R-2 assisted living facilities.** A manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with Section 907.5 shall be installed in Group R-2 occupancies where the building contains a boarding home licensed by the state of Washington.

**Exception:** In boarding homes licensed by the state of Washington, manual fire alarm boxes in resident sleeping areas shall not be required at exits if located at all constantly attended staff locations, provided such staff locations are visible, continuously accessible, located on each floor, and positioned so no portion of the story exceeds a horizontal travel distance of 200 feet to a manual fire alarm box.

**Revise Amendment to read as follows:**

**907.2.9.1.1 Group R-2 assisted living facilities.** A manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with Section 907.5 shall be installed in Group R-2 occupancies where the building contains ~~a boarding home~~ an assisted living facility licensed by the state of Washington.

**Exceptions:**

~~In boarding homes licensed by the state of Washington, manual fire alarm boxes in resident sleeping areas~~ ~~shall not be required at exits if located at all constantly attended staff locations, provided such staff~~ ~~locations are visible, continuously accessible, located on each floor, and positioned so no portion of the~~ ~~story exceeds a horizontal travel distance of 200 feet to a manual fire alarm box.~~

1. Manual fire alarm boxes in resident sleeping areas shall not be required at exits if located at all care providers’ control stations or other constantly attended staff locations, provided such staff locations are visible and continuously accessible and that the distances of travel required in Section 907.4.2.1 are not exceeded.
2. The manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system is not required to be activated where private mode signaling installed in accordance with NFPA 72 is approved by the fire code official and staff evacuation responsibilities are included in the fire safety and evacuation plan required by Section 404.

# Briefly explain your proposed amendment, including the purpose, benefits and problems addressed.

Revise amendment to use the phrase ‘assisted living facility’ in lieu of ‘boarding home’ where addressing facilities licensed by the state of Washington under Chapter 388-78A WAC.

Licensed assisted living facilities more closely match the description of Institutional Group I-1 Condition 2. The residents receive custodial care and require limited verbal or physical assistance while responding to an emergency situation to complete building evacuation. Some of the residents may not be capable of self-preservation. The two proposed exceptions are similar to what is allowed in I-1 occupancy.

The first exception makes minor edits to match the 2015 IFC language for locating manual fire alarm boxes in Group I occupancies. This creates flexibility by recognizing the “care providers’ control stations” as an optional location for the manual fire alarm boxes. ‘Care providers control stations’ is a term used to replace ‘nurse stations’ throughout the newer version of the code.

The second exception allows for private mode signaling as allowed in Group I occupancies in the 2015 IFC. In certain residential care environments, occupants can become very distraught and the activation

of fire alarm systems often creates difficult situations for staff to execute their fire safety and evacuation plans.

1. **Specify what criteria this proposal meets.** You may select more than one. The amendment is needed to address a critical life/safety need.

The amendment is needed to address a specific state policy or statute.

The amendment is needed for consistency with state or federal regulations.

The amendment is needed to address a unique character of the state: Washington uses a modified R-2 occupancy for licensed assisted living facilities.

The amendment corrects errors and omissions.

# Is there an economic impact: Yes No

Explain: Clarifies existing code amendment and provides additional options for occupant notifications. It does not add any requirements.

Please send your completed proposal to: sbcc@ga.wa.gov

All questions must be answered to be considered complete. Incomplete proposals will not be accepted.