What follows is a DRAFT copy of the proposed amendments to the fire alarm requirements found in the International Fire Code (IFC) for new and existing buildings. Changes to the language found in current rules amending the Minnesota Uniform Fire Code (MUFC) are underlined.

This is an extensive rewrite designed to:

- Bring the IFC more into line with fire alarm requirements found in the current MUFC.
- Arrange the requirements into a more “user-friendly” format intended to help the designer, property owner/operator and code official identify what type of fire alarm is required in each occupancy, how it is intended to be activated and who is supposed to be notified on activation.
- Move the code away from manual fire alarm boxes, which are too frequently used to generate false alarms in a number of occupancies.
- Allow automatic sprinkler systems to be used for and/or replace fire alarm functions. The IFC adds fire alarm requirements for new Group B and F Occupancies. By state amendment, the current MUFC allows fire alarm systems to be omitted in sprinklered Group A Occupancies. The proposed IFC amendment does the same for Group B and F Occupancies.
- Delete the requirement for fire alarm systems in Group M Occupancies. Again, while the IFC adds requirements for new Group M Occupancies, there are no similar provisions in the current MUFC. It is felt that the cost of installing fire alarm systems in these occupancies would very likely outweigh any benefit provided.
- Add a requirement for corridor smoke detection in new Group I-2 Occupancies. Because both state and national codes allow many areas to be open to corridors, there is a need to provide sufficient early warning should a fire incident occur that could compromise the corridor exit system.
- Add requirements for fire alarm systems in new outpatient clinics (ambulatory surgical centers) to bring the IFC more in line with nationally recognized standards.
- Add requirements for fire alarm systems in new residential hospices. The requirements are based on recommendations generated by a Minnesota Department of Health task force.
- Add an exception allowing battery backup to be omitted from smoke detectors in sprinklered Group R-2 Occupancies. This is done to recognize the life safety benefits of automatic sprinklers and reduce initial installation and long term maintenance costs for property owners.
- Allow annual inspection and testing of fire alarm systems in lieu of the intervals specified in NFPA 72. It is felt that those intervals are unrealistic and costly. Because there are situations where the more frequent intervals are needed, the code official is authorized to require same.
- Delete exception to 907.4.1. This is editorial. The provisions dealing with manual pull stations in Group E Occupancies are in Sections 907.2.3.1 and 907.3.2.1.

Please direct any comments, questions or suggestions concerning these proposed amendments to Bob Imholte at Bob.Imholte@state.mn.us.
Subpart 1. Sec. 907.2. Sec. 907.2 of the International Fire Code is amended to read:

**907.2 When required – new buildings and structures.** An approved manual, automatic, or manual and automatic fire alarm system shall be provided in new buildings and structures in accordance with Sections 907.2.1 through 907.2.24 and NFPA 72. For the purposes of this section, area separation walls or fire walls shall not define separate buildings.

**Exception:** In areas protected by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system, heat detectors required by Section 907.2 need not be provided.

Subpart 2. Sec. 907.2.1. Sections 907.2.1 through 907.2.1.2 of the International Fire Code are amended to read:

**907.2.1 Group A.** A fire alarm system shall be installed in accordance with Section 907.2.1 in Group A Occupancies having an occupant load of 300 or more.

**Exceptions:** 1. Assembly areas used solely for worship purposes.
2. A fire alarm system is not required when an approved automatic fire extinguishing system is installed throughout the building.
3. Group A Occupancy portions of Group E Occupancies are allowed to have alarms as required for the Group E Occupancy.

See also Section 907.2.11.

**907.2.1.1 Initiation.** Initiation of the fire alarm system shall be by automatic means. The initiating device shall transmit an alarm signal to a master control unit installed in an approved location within the building. Approved automatic fire detectors shall be installed in laundry rooms, boiler and furnace rooms, mechanical and electrical rooms, shops, kitchens, trash collection rooms, storage rooms and similar areas.

**907.2.1.2 Notification.** The required fire alarm system shall activate an audible and visible notification appliance at a constantly attended location for the purposes of initiating emergency action. A pre-signal feature and positive alarm sequencing in accordance with NFPA 72 are permitted.

Occupant notification shall be by means of voice announcements, either live or prerecorded, initiated by the person in the constantly attended location.

**EXCEPTION:** Where no constantly attended location exists, an automatic fire alarm system providing a general evacuation signal or an approved emergency voice/alarm communications system is permitted.

**907.2.1.3 System initiation in Group A Occupancies with an occupant load of 1,000 or more.** Activation of the fire alarm system in Group A Occupancies with an occupant load of 1,000 or more shall immediately initiate an approved prerecorded message announcement using an approved emergency voice/alarm communications system in accordance with NFPA 72.
Exception: Where approved, the prerecorded announcement is allowed to be manually deactivated for a period of time, not to exceed 3 minutes, for the sole purpose of allowing a live voice announcement from an approved constantly attended location.

Subpart 3. Sec. 907.2.2. Sec. 907.2.2 of the International Fire Code is amended to read:

907.2.2 Group B. A fire alarm system shall be installed in accordance with Section 907.2.2 in Group B Occupancies where:

1. The building has an occupant load of 500 or more persons, or
2. The building has an occupant load of more than 100 persons above or below the lowest level of exit discharge, or
3. The building contains an outpatient clinic.

When automatic sprinkler systems or automatic fire detectors are installed in outpatient clinics, such systems or detectors shall be connected to the building fire alarm system.

Exception: In other than outpatient clinics, a fire alarm system is not required when an approved automatic fire extinguishing system is installed throughout the building.

907.2.2.1 Initiation. Initiation of the fire alarm system shall be by automatic means. Approved automatic fire detectors shall be provided in boiler and furnace rooms, shops, kitchens, mechanical areas, trash collection rooms, storage rooms and similar areas. In outpatient clinics, initiation of the fire alarm system shall also be by manual means.

907.2.2.2 Notification. Activation of the fire alarm system shall initiate a general evacuation signal.

Exception: In lieu of audible notification appliances, visible notification appliances shall be permitted to be used in patient care areas.

907.2.2.3 Outpatient clinics. Corridors in outpatient clinics and spaces open to the corridors shall be protected by an automatic smoke detection system.

Subpart 4. Sec. 907.2.3. Sec. 907.2.3 of the International Fire Code is amended to read:

907.2.3 Group E. A fire alarm system shall be installed in accordance with Section 907.2.3 in Group E Occupancies having an occupant load of 50 or more. When automatic sprinkler systems or automatic fire detectors are installed, such systems or detectors shall be connected to the building fire alarm system.

907.2.3.1 Initiation. Initiation of the fire alarm system shall be by manual and automatic means. Approved automatic fire detectors shall be provided in laundry rooms, boiler and furnace rooms, mechanical and electrical rooms, shops, laboratories, kitchens, locker rooms, janitors’ closets, trash collection rooms, storage rooms, lounges and similar areas.
Exceptions: 1. In buildings protected throughout by an approved, supervised fire sprinkler system, manual fire alarm boxes are only required in the main office and in a custodial area.
2. Where all corridors are protected by an approved automatic fire alarm system having smoke detection with alarm verification, manual fire alarm boxes are only required near exits serving shops, chemistry and physics laboratories, boiler rooms, industrial technology and industrial arts rooms, kitchens, custodian’s office and main office.

907.2.3.2 Travel through adjoining rooms. Where the only means of egress travel from an interior room or rooms having an aggregate occupant load of more than 10 occupants is through an adjoining or intervening room, automatic smoke detectors shall be installed throughout the common atmosphere through which the path of egress travel passes.

907.2.3.3 Notification. Activation of the fire alarm system or automatic sprinkler system shall initiate a general evacuation signal.

Subpart 5. Sec. 907.2.4. Sec. 907.2.4 of the International Fire Code is amended to read:

907.2.4 Group F. A fire alarm system shall be installed in accordance with Section 907.2.4 in Group F Occupancies that are two stories or more in height and have an occupant load of 500 or more above or below the lowest level of exit discharge.

Exception: A fire alarm system is not required when an approved automatic fire extinguishing system is installed throughout the building.

907.2.4.1 Initiation. Initiation of the fire alarm system shall be by manual and automatic means. Approved automatic fire detectors shall be provided in boiler and furnace rooms, trash collection rooms, shops, kitchens, mechanical areas, and similar areas.

907.2.4.2 Notification. Activation of the fire alarm system shall initiate a general evacuation signal.

Subpart 6. Sec. 907.2.5. Sec. 907.2.5 of the International Fire Code is amended:

907.2.5 Group H. A fire alarm system shall be installed in accordance with Section 907.2.5 in Group H-5 Occupancies, occupancies used for the manufacture of organic coatings, and, when required by Chapters 37, 39 and 40, the following locations:

1. rooms or areas where highly toxic compressed gases are stored or used,
2. rooms or areas where Class I, II or III organic peroxides are stored, and
3. liquid and solid oxidizer storage areas.

907.2.5.1 Initiation. Initiation of the fire alarm system in Group H-5 Occupancies and in occupancies used for the manufacture of organic coatings shall be by manual means. Initiation of fire alarm systems installed for highly toxic gases, organic peroxides and oxidizers shall be by automatic means, as specified in Chapters 37, 39 and 40:
907.2.5.2 Notification. Activation of the fire alarm system in Group H-5 Occupancies and in occupancies used for the manufacture of organic coatings shall initiate a general evacuation signal. Activation of the automatic detection systems installed for highly toxic gases, organic peroxides and oxidizers shall sound a local alarm.

Subpart 7. Sec. 907.2.6. Sections 907.2.6 through 907.2.6.2.3 of the International Fire Code are amended to read:

907.2.6 Group I. General. A fire alarm system shall be installed in accordance with Section 907.2.6 in Group I Occupancies.

907.2.6.1 Initiation. Initiation of the fire alarm system shall be by manual and automatic means. Approved automatic fire detectors shall be installed in laundry and soiled linen rooms, boiler and furnace rooms, mechanical and electrical rooms, shops, laboratories, kitchens, locker rooms, janitors’ closets, trash collection rooms, storage rooms, lounges, gift shops and similar areas. Automatic smoke detectors shall be provided in waiting areas that are open to corridors.

Exception: Manual fire alarm boxes in patient sleeping areas of Group I-1 and I-2 Occupancies shall not be required at exits if located at all nurse’s stations or other continuously attended staff locations, provided such fire alarm boxes are visible and continuously accessible and that travel distances required by Section 907.4.1 are not exceeded.

907.2.6.2 Notification. Activation of the fire alarm system or automatic sprinkler system shall initiate a general evacuation signal. In addition, activation of the fire alarm system shall immediately transmit an alarm to an approved central station or remote station service.

Exceptions: 1. In lieu of audible notification appliances, visible notification appliances shall be allowed to be used in critical care areas.
2. Where occupants are incapable of evacuating themselves because of age, physical/mental disabilities, or physical restraint, only the attendants or other personnel required to evacuate occupants from a zone, area, floor, or building shall be required to be notified. This notification shall include means to readily identify the zone, area, floor, or building in need of evacuation.

907.2.6.3 Group I-2 Occupancies. Corridors in hospitals, nursing homes (both intermediate care and skilled nursing facilities), board and care homes and detoxification facilities and spaces open to the corridors shall be protected by an automatic smoke detection system.

907.2.6.3.1 Patient room smoke detectors. Smoke detectors which receive their primary power from the building wiring shall be installed in patient sleeping rooms of hospitals and nursing homes. Actuation of such detectors shall cause a visual display on the corridor side of the room in which the detector is located and shall cause an audible and visual alarm at the nurse’s station attending the room.

907.2.6.4 Group I-3 Occupancies. Group I-3 Occupancies shall be provided with a fire alarm system installed for alerting staff.
907.2.6.4.1 Initiation. Initiation of the fire alarm system shall be by manual and automatic means. Approved automatic fire detectors shall be installed in laundry and soiled linen rooms, boiler and furnace rooms, mechanical and electrical rooms, shops, laboratories, kitchens, locker rooms, janitors’ closets, trash collection rooms, storage rooms, lounges, gift shops, commissaries and similar areas. Actuation of an automatic fire-extinguishing system, a manual fire alarm box or a fire detector shall initiate an approved fire alarm signal, which automatically notifies staff. Pre-signal systems shall not be used.

907.2.6.4.2 Manual fire alarm boxes. Manual fire alarm boxes are not required to be located in accordance with Section 907.4 where the fire alarm boxes are provided at staff-attended locations having direct supervision over areas where manual fire alarm boxes have been omitted.

Manual fire alarm boxes are permitted to be locked in areas occupied by detainees, provided that staff members are present within the subject area and have keys readily available to operate the manual fire alarm boxes.

907.2.6.4.3 Smoke detectors. An approved automatic smoke detection system shall be installed throughout resident housing areas, including sleeping areas and contiguous day rooms, group activity spaces and other common spaces normally accessible to residents.

Exceptions: 1. Other approved smoke-detection arrangements providing equivalent protection, such as placing detectors in exhaust ducts from cells or behind protective grills, are allowed when necessary to prevent damage or tampering.
2. Smoke detectors are not required in sleeping rooms with 4 or fewer occupants in smoke compartments that are equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system.

Subpart 8. Sec. 907.2.7. Sections 907.2.7 through 907.2.7.1 of the International Fire Code are deleted.

Subpart 9. Sec. 907.2.8. Sections 907.2.8 through 907.2.8.1 of the International Fire Code are amended to read:

907.2.8 Group R-1. A fire alarm system shall be installed in accordance with Section 907.2.8 in Group R-1 occupancies.

Exception: Buildings containing five or less guest rooms shall be allowed to be equipped with approved multiple-station smoke detectors installed as required for Group R-3 Occupancies. Installation shall be in accordance with Section 907.2.10.

907.2.8.1 Initiation. Initiation of the fire alarm system shall be by manual and automatic means. Approved automatic fire detectors shall be provided in boiler and furnace rooms, shops, laundry rooms, mechanical areas, trash collection rooms, storage rooms, gift shops, locker rooms and similar areas. Automatic smoke detectors shall be provided in all common areas and interior corridors serving as required means of egress.
Exceptions: 1. Manual fire alarm boxes are not required in buildings not over two stories in height where all individual guest rooms and contiguous attic and crawl spaces are separated from each other and public or common areas by at least one hour fire partitions and each individual guest room has an exit directly to a public way, exit court or yard.  
2. An automatic fire detection system is not required in buildings that do not have interior corridors serving guest rooms and where guest rooms have a means of egress door opening directly to an exterior exit access that leads directly to the exits.  
3. Manual fire alarm boxes at exits and system fire and smoke detectors are not required when an approved automatic fire extinguishing system is installed throughout the building and manual activation is provided at a constantly attended location.

907.2.8.2 Notification. Activation of the fire alarm system or automatic sprinkler system shall initiate a general evacuation signal.

907.2.8.3 Guest room detectors. Guest room smoke detectors required by Section 907.2.10 shall not be connected to a fire alarm system.

Exception: Connection of such detectors for annunciation only.

Subpart 10. Sec. 907.2.9. Sec. 907.2.9 of the International Fire Code is amended to read:

907.2.9 Group R-2. A fire alarm system shall be installed in Group R-2 occupancies where:

1. Any guest room or dwelling unit is located three or more stories above the lowest level of exit discharge, or
2. Any guest room or dwelling unit is located more than one story below the highest level of exit discharge of exits serving the dwelling unit, or
3. The building contains more than 16 dwelling units or guest rooms, or
4. The building has an occupant load of 20 or more.

Exception: A fire alarm system is not required in buildings not over two stories in height where all dwelling units and contiguous attic and crawl spaces are separated from each other and public or common areas by at least one-hour fire-partitions and each dwelling unit has an exit directly to a public way, exit court or yard.

907.2.9.1 Initiation. Initiation of the fire alarm system shall be by manual and automatic means. Automatic fire detectors shall be provided in boiler and furnace rooms, trash collection rooms, shops, laundry rooms, mechanical areas, storage rooms, and similar areas. Automatic smoke detectors shall be provided in all common areas and interior corridors serving as required means of egress.

EXCEPTION: Manual fire alarm boxes and system fire and smoke detectors are not required when an approved automatic fire extinguishing system is installed throughout the building.

907.2.9.2 Notification. Activation of the fire alarm system or automatic sprinkler system shall initiate a general evacuation signal.
Subpart 11. Sec. 907.2.10.2. Sec. 907.2.10.2 of the International Fire Code is amended by adding an Exception 3 to read:

3. Smoke alarms are not required to be equipped with battery backup in Group R-2 Occupancies equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Sections 903.3.1.1 or 903.1.2.

Subpart 12. Sec. 907.2.24. Sec. 907.2 of the International Fire Code is amended by adding a section to read:

907.2.24 Residential Hospices. A fire alarm system shall be installed in accordance with Section 907.2.24 in Residential Hospices. When automatic sprinkler systems or automatic fire detectors are installed, such systems or detectors shall be connected to the building fire alarm system.

907.2.24.1 Initiation. Initiation of the fire alarm system shall be by manual and automatic means. Approved automatic fire detectors shall be provided in boiler and furnace rooms, kitchens, laboratories, shops, gift shops, commissaries, laundry and soiled linen rooms, mechanical and electrical rooms, locker rooms, storage rooms, janitors’ closets, trash collection rooms, lounges and similar areas. Automatic smoke detectors shall be provided in sleeping rooms, corridors and spaces open to the corridors.

Exception: Manual fire alarm boxes are not required at exits if manual fire alarm boxes are located at all nurse’s stations or other continuously attended staff locations, provided such fire alarm boxes are visible and continuously accessible and that travel distances required by Section 907.4.1 are not exceeded.

907.2.24.2 Notification. Activation of the fire alarm system or automatic sprinkler system shall initiate a general evacuation signal. In addition, the fire alarm system shall be monitored by an approved central station service in accordance with Section 903.4.1.

Exception: In lieu of audible notification appliances, visible notification appliances shall be allowed to be used in sleeping areas.

Subpart 13. Sec. 907.20.2. Sec. 907.20.2 of the International Fire Code is amended to read:

907.20.2 Testing. Fire alarm systems shall be inspected and tested at least annually in accordance with NFPA 72 or more frequently where required by the code official.

Exception: Devices or equipment that are inaccessible for safety considerations shall be tested during scheduled shutdowns where approved by the code official, but not less than every 18 months.

Subpart 14. Sec. 907.3. Sec. 907.3 of the International Fire Code is amended to read:
907.3 When required – retroactive in existing buildings and structures. An approved manual, automatic, or manual and automatic fire alarm system shall be provided in existing buildings and structures in accordance with Sections 907.3.1 through 907.3.6 and NFPA 72.

EXCEPTION. In areas protected by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system, heat detectors required by Section 907.3 need not be provided.

907.3.1 Group A. A fire alarm system shall be installed in accordance with Section 907.3.1 in existing Group A Occupancies having an occupant load of 300 or more.

Exceptions: 1. Assembly areas used solely for worship purposes.
2. A fire alarm system is not required when an approved automatic fire extinguishing system is installed throughout the building.
3. Group A Occupancy portions of Group E Occupancies are allowed to have alarms as required for the Group E Occupancy.

907.3.1.1 Initiation. Initiation of the fire alarm system shall be by automatic means. The initiating device shall transmit an alarm signal to a master control unit installed in an approved location within the building. Approved automatic fire detectors shall be installed in laundry rooms, boiler and furnace rooms, mechanical and electrical rooms, shops, kitchens, trash collection rooms, storage rooms and similar areas.

907.3.1.2 Notification. The required fire alarm system shall activate an audible and visible notification appliance at a constantly attended location for the purposes of initiating emergency action. A pre-signal feature and positive alarm sequencing in accordance with NFPA 72 are permitted.

Occupant notification shall be by means of voice announcements, either live or prerecorded, initiated by the person in the constantly attended location.

Exception: Where no constantly attended location exists, an automatic fire alarm system providing a general evacuation signal or an approved emergency voice/alarm communications system is permitted.

907.3.2 Group E. A fire alarm system shall be installed in accordance with Section 907.3.2 in existing Group E Occupancies having an occupant load of 50 or more. When automatic sprinkler systems or automatic fire detectors are installed, such systems or detectors shall be connected to the building fire alarm system.

Exception: A building with a maximum area of 1,000 square feet (93 sq. m.) that contains a single classroom and is located no closer than 20 feet (15,240 mm) from another building.

907.3.2.1 Initiation. Initiation of the fire alarm system shall be by manual and automatic means. Approved automatic fire detectors shall be provided in laundry rooms, boiler and furnace rooms, mechanical and electrical rooms, shops, laboratories, kitchens, locker rooms, janitors’ closets, trash collection rooms, storage rooms, lounges and similar areas.
**EXCEPTIONS:**

1. In buildings equipped throughout by an approved, supervised fire sprinkler system, manual fire alarm boxes are only required in the main office and in a custodial area.
2. In buildings which are protected with automatic smoke detectors with alarm verification throughout the exit system, manual fire alarm boxes are only required at exit doors from shops, chemistry and physics laboratories, boiler rooms, industrial technology and industrial arts rooms, kitchens, custodian’s office and main office.

907.3.2.2 **Travel through adjoining rooms.** Where the only means of egress travel from an interior room or rooms having an aggregate occupant load of more than 10 occupants is through an adjoining or intervening room, automatic smoke detectors shall be installed throughout the common atmosphere through which the path of egress travel passes.

907.3.2.3 **Notification.** Activation of the fire alarm system or automatic sprinkler system shall initiate a general evacuation signal.

907.3.3 **Group I.** General. A fire alarm system shall be installed in accordance with Section 907.3.3 in existing Group I Occupancies.

907.3.3.1 **Initiation.** Initiation of the fire alarm system shall be by manual and automatic means. Approved automatic fire detectors shall be provided in laundry and soiled linen rooms, boiler and furnace rooms, mechanical and electrical rooms, shops, laboratories, kitchens, locker rooms, janitors’ closets, trash collection rooms, storage rooms, lounges, gift shops and similar areas. Automatic smoke detectors shall be provided in waiting areas which are open to corridors.

**Exception:** Manual fire alarm boxes in patient sleeping areas of Group I-1 and I-2 occupancies are not required at exits if manual fire alarm boxes are located at all nurse’s stations or other continuously attended staff locations, provided such fire alarm boxes are visible and continuously accessible and that travel distances required by Section 907.4.1 are not exceeded.

907.3.3.2 **Notification.** Activation of the fire alarm system or automatic sprinkler system shall initiate a general evacuation signal. In addition, activation of the fire alarm system shall immediately transmit an alarm to an approved central station or remote station service.

**EXCEPTIONS:**

1. In lieu of audible notification appliances, visible notification appliances shall be allowed to be used in critical care areas.
2. Where occupants are incapable of evacuating themselves because of age, physical/mental disabilities, or physical restraint, only the attendants or other personnel required to evacuate occupants from a zone, area, floor, or building shall be required to be notified. This notification shall include means to readily identify the zone, area, floor, or building in need of evacuation.

907.3.3.3 **Group I-3 occupancies.** Existing Group I-3 occupancies shall be provided with a fire alarm system installed for alerting staff. In addition, activation of the fire alarm system shall immediately transmit an alarm to an approved central station or remote station service.
907.3.3.3.1 Initiation. Initiation of the fire alarm system shall be by manual and automatic means. Approved automatic fire detectors shall be provided in laundry and soiled linen rooms, boiler and furnace rooms, mechanical and electrical rooms, shops, laboratories, kitchens, locker rooms, janitors’ closets, trash collections rooms, storage rooms, lounges, gift shops, commissaries and similar areas. Actuation of an automatic fire-extinguishing system, a manual fire alarm box or a fire detector shall initiate an approved fire alarm signal, which automatically notifies staff. Presignal systems shall not be used.

907.3.3.3.2 Manual fire alarm boxes. Manual fire alarm boxes are not required to be located in accordance with Section 907.4 where the fire alarm boxes are provided at staff-attended locations having direct supervision over areas where manual fire alarm boxes have been omitted.

Manual fire alarm boxes are permitted to be locked in areas occupied by detainees, provided that staff members are present within the subject area and have keys readily available to operate the manual fire alarm boxes.

907.3.3.3 Smoke detectors. An approved automatic smoke detection system shall be installed throughout resident housing areas, including sleeping areas and contiguous day rooms, group activity spaces and other common spaces normally accessible to residents.

EXCEPTIONS: 1. Other approved smoke detection arrangements providing equivalent protection, such as placing alarms in exhaust ducts from cells or behind protective guards, listed for the purpose, are allowed when necessary to prevent damage or tampering.

2. Smoke detectors are not required in sleeping rooms with 4 or fewer occupants in smoke compartments that are equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system.

907.3.4 Group R-1. A fire alarm system shall be installed in accordance with Section 907.3.4 in existing Group R-1 Occupancies three or more stories in height or with 20 or more guest rooms.

Buildings containing five or less guest rooms shall be equipped with approved multiple-station smoke detectors installed as required for Group R-3 Occupancies. Installation shall be in accordance with Section 907.2.10.

Exception: A fire alarm system is not required in buildings less than 2 stories in height when all guest rooms, attics, and crawl spaces are separated by one hour fire resistance rated construction and each guest room has direct access to a public way, exit court or yard.

907.3.4.1 Initiation. Initiation of the fire alarm system shall be by manual and automatic means. Approved automatic fire detectors shall be provided in boiler and furnace rooms, shops, laundry rooms, mechanical areas, trash collection rooms, storage rooms, gift shops, locker rooms and similar areas. Automatic smoke detectors shall be provided in all common areas and interior corridors serving as required means of egress.

EXCEPTIONS: 1. Manual fire alarm boxes are not required in buildings not over two stories in height where all individual guest rooms and contiguous attic and crawl spaces
are separated from each other and public or common areas by at least one hour fire partitions and each individual guest room has an exit directly to a public way, exit court or yard.

2. An automatic fire detection system is not required in buildings that do not have interior corridors serving guest rooms and where guest rooms have a means of egress door opening directly to an exterior exit access that leads directly to the exits.

3. Manual fire alarm boxes at exits and system fire and smoke detectors are not required when an approved automatic fire extinguishing system is installed throughout the building and manual activation is provided at a constantly attended location.

907.3.4.2 Notification. Activation of the fire alarm system or automatic sprinkler system shall initiate a general evacuation signal.

907.3.4.3 Guest room detectors. Guest room smoke detectors required by Section 907.2.10 shall not be connected to a fire alarm system.

Exception: Connection of such detectors for annunciation only.

907.3.5 Group R-2. A fire alarm system shall be installed in accordance with Section 907.3.5 in existing Group R-2 occupancies where:

1. Any guest room or dwelling unit is located three or more stories above the lowest level of exit discharge, or
2. Any guest room or dwelling unit is located more than one story below the highest level of exit discharge of exits serving the dwelling unit, or
3. The building contains more than 16 dwelling units or guest rooms, or
4. The building has an occupant load of 20 or more.

Exception: A fire alarm system is not required in buildings not over two stories in height where all dwelling units and contiguous attic and crawl spaces are separated from each other and public or common areas by at least one-hour fire-partitions and each dwelling unit has an exit directly to a public way, exit court or yard.

907.3.5.1 Initiation. Initiation of the fire alarm system shall be by manual and automatic means. Approved automatic fire detectors shall be provided in boiler and furnace rooms, shops, laundry rooms, mechanical areas, trash collection rooms, storage rooms, and similar areas. Automatic smoke detectors shall be provided in all common areas and interior corridors serving as required means of egress.

Exception: Manual fire alarm boxes and system fire and smoke detectors are not required when an approved automatic fire extinguishing system is installed throughout the building.

907.3.5.2 Notification. Activation of the fire alarm system or automatic sprinkler system shall initiate a general evacuation signal.
907.3.6 Single- or multiple-station smoke alarms. Existing Group R Occupancies not already provided with single- or multiple-station smoke alarms shall be provided with approved single- or multiple-station smoke alarms installed and maintained in accordance with Section 907.2.10.

Exception: For buildings constructed prior to August 1, 1989, detectors can receive their power from a battery supply. For buildings constructed on or after August 1, 1989, detectors shall be connected to a centralized power source.

Subpart 15. Sec. 907.4.1. The Exception to Sec. 907.4.1 of the International Fire Code is deleted.