

Subject: State of Iowa - New Smoke Alarm Requirements for New Dwellings July 1, 2021 Extended to July 1, 2022

Dear Electrician/Contractor,

RE: Smoke Alarm Requirements

This email is an update to the mass email that was sent out on May 19th concerning the new smoke alarm requirements for new dwellings that were going to go into effect on July 1, 2021. The new requirements have been delayed until July 1, 2022.

UL made a decision to extend the effective date for the new smoke alarm requirement (ANSI/UL 217) until July 1, 2022. This was based on several factors caused by the global impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has significantly impacted the global supply chain for critical components needed for smoke alarm production to meet anticipated market demand. The pandemic has also caused a reduction to the availability of and access to the UL smoke alarm laboratories by manufacturer's staff, which has limited their research time and availability of exploratory testing of the new technologies in these products. This date extension will allow manufacturers more time to gain certification to the new requirements.

What does this mean? The current smoke alarms and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms that you have been installing can still be installed. Smoke alarms are still required to meet UL 217 and CO alarms are still required to meet UL 2034.

The 10-year tamper-proof battery requirement will only apply to existing dwellings built prior to 1991 that are not connected to a utility power source and this will go into effect on July 1, 2022.

When possible, the State Fire Marshal Division strongly recommends installing the 10-year tamper proof batteries in the alarms for additional safety. However it is not required at this time.

Thank you,

Electrical Examining Board Staff