

## Fire Alarm Systems Requirements by Occupancy Type

### 2013 California Building Code

**907.2.1 Group A.** A manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with [Section 907.6](#) shall be installed in Group A occupancies having an *occupant load* of 300 or more.

Portions of Group E occupancies occupied for assembly purposes *with an occupant load of less than 1,000* shall be provided with a fire alarm system as required for the Group E occupancy.

*Every Group A building used for educational purposes shall be provided with a manual or automatic fire alarm system. This provision shall apply to, but shall not necessarily be limited to, every community college and university.*

#### **Exceptions:**

1. *Privately owned trade or vocational schools or any firm or company which provides educational facilities and instructions for its employees.*
2. Manual fire alarm boxes are not required where the building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#) and the occupant notification appliances will activate throughout the notification zones upon sprinkler water flow.

**907.2.1.1 System initiation in Group A occupancies with an occupant load of 1,000 or more.** Activation of the fire alarm in Group A occupancies with an *occupant load* of 1,000 or more shall initiate a signal using an emergency voice/alarm communications system in accordance with 907.6.2.2. *Group A occupancies with an occupant load of 10,000 or more, see [Section 907.2.1.2](#).*

**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.

**907.2.1.2 Public address system.** Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13108.9, for all buildings or structures constructed on or after July 1, 1991, which are intended for public assemblies of 10,000 or more persons a public address system with an emergency backup power system shall be required.

--

**907.2.2 Group B.** A manual fire alarm system shall be installed in Group B occupancies where one of the following conditions exists:

1. The combined Group B *occupant load* of all floors is 500 or more.
2. The Group B *occupant load* is more than 100 *persons* above or below the lowest *level of exit discharge*.
3. The Group B *fire area* contains a Group B ambulatory health care facility.
4. *Group B occupancies containing educational facilities*, see [Section 907.2.2.2](#).

**Exception:** Manual fire alarm boxes are not required where the building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#) and the occupant notification appliances will activate throughout the notification zones upon sprinkler water flow.

**907.2.2.1 Group B ambulatory health care facilities.** *Fire areas* containing Group B ambulatory health care facilities shall be provided with an electronically supervised automatic smoke detection system installed within the ambulatory health care facility and in public use areas outside of tenant spaces, including public *corridors* and elevator lobbies.

**Exception:** Buildings equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#) provided the occupant notification appliances will activate throughout the notification zones upon sprinkler water flow.

**907.2.2.2 Group B Educational facilities.** *Every Group B building used for educational purposes shall be provided with a manual or automatic fire alarm system. This provision shall apply to, but shall not necessarily be limited to, every community college and university.*

**Exception:** *Privately owned trade or vocational schools or any firm or company which provides educational facilities and instructions for its employees.*

--

**907.2.3 Group E.** A manual *and automatic* fire alarm system shall be installed in Group E occupancies *with an occupant load of 50 or more persons or containing more than one classroom or one or more rooms used for day-care purposes*, in accordance with this section.

*Where automatic sprinkler systems or automatic detectors are installed, such systems or detectors shall be connected to the building fire alarm system.*

**Exceptions:**

1. *Manual fire alarm boxes shall not be required in Group E occupancies where an approved automatic fire alarm system installed in accordance with this section, and manual activation is provided from a normally occupied location.*
2. *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 occupant notification appliances will activate on sprinkler water flow and manual activation is provided from a normally occupied location.*

**907.2.3.1 System connection.** Where more than one fire alarm control unit is used at the school campus, they shall be interconnected and shall operate all notification appliances.

**Exception:** Interconnection of fire alarm control units is not required when all the following are provided:

1. Buildings that are separated a minimum of 20 feet (6096 mm) and in accordance with the California Building Code, and
2. There is a method of two way communication between each classroom and the school administrative office approved by the fire enforcing agency, and
3. A method of manual activation of each fire alarm system is provided.

--

**907.2.4 Group F.** A manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with [Section 907.6](#) shall be installed in Group F occupancies where both of the following conditions exist:

1. The Group F occupancy is two or more stories in height; and
2. The Group F occupancy has a combined *occupant load* of 500 or more above or below the lowest *level of exit discharge*.

**Exception:** Manual fire alarm boxes are not required where the building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#) and the occupant notification appliances will activate throughout the notification zones upon sprinkler water flow.

--

**907.2.5 Group H.** A manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system shall be installed in Group H-5 occupancies and in occupancies used for the manufacture of organic coatings. An automatic smoke detection system that activates the occupant notification system shall be installed for highly toxic gases, organic peroxides and oxidizers in accordance with [Chapters 37, 39 and 40](#), respectively.

**907.2.5.1 Group H occupancies located above the 10th story.** Manual fire alarm boxes shall be required on each side of the 2-hour fire-smoke barrier and at each exit above the 10th story.

--

**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 activates the occupant notification system shall be provided in accordance with [Sections 907.2.6.1](#) through [907.2.6.3.3](#).

**Exceptions:**

1. Large family day-care.
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.

--

**907.2.7 Group M.** A manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with [Section 907.6](#) shall be installed in Group M occupancies where one of the following conditions exists:

1. The combined Group M *occupant load* of all floors is 500 or more *persons*.
2. The Group M *occupant load* is more than 100 *persons* above or below the lowest *level of exit discharge*.

**Exceptions:**

1. A manual fire alarm system is not required in covered mall buildings complying with Section 402 of the *California Building Code*.
2. Manual fire alarm boxes are not required where the building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#) and the occupant notification appliances will automatically activate throughout the notification zones upon sprinkler water flow.

--

**907.2.8 Group R-1.** Fire alarm systems and smoke alarms shall be installed in Group R-1 occupancies as required in [Sections 907.2.8.1](#) through [907.2.8.3](#).

**907.2.8.1 Manual fire alarm system.** A manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with [Section 907.6](#) shall be installed in Group R-1 occupancies.

**Exceptions:**

1. A manual fire alarm system is not required in buildings not more than two stories in height where all individual *sleeping units* and contiguous attic and crawl spaces to those units are separated from each other and public or common areas by at least 1-hour *fire partitions* and each individual *sleeping unit* has an *exit* directly to a *public way, exit court* or yard.
2. Manual fire alarm boxes are not required throughout the building when the following conditions are met:
  - 2.1. The building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#) or [903.3.1.2](#);
  - 2.2. The notification appliances will activate upon sprinkler water flow; and
  - 2.3. At least one manual fire alarm box is installed at an *approved* location.

**907.2.8.2 Automatic smoke detection system.** An automatic smoke detection system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with [Section 907.6](#) shall be installed throughout all interior *corridors* serving *sleeping units*.

**Exception:** An automatic smoke detection system is not required in buildings that do not have interior *corridors* serving *sleeping units* and where each *sleeping unit* has a *means of egress* door opening directly to an *exit* or to an exterior *exit access* that leads directly to an *exit*.

**907.2.9 Group R-2 and R-2.1.** Fire alarm systems and smoke alarms shall be installed in Group R-2 and R-2.1 occupancies as required in [Section 907.2.9.1](#) and [907.9.3](#).

**907.2.9.1 Manual fire alarm system.** A manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with [Section 907.6](#) shall be installed in Group R-2 occupancies where:

1. Any *dwelling unit* or *sleeping unit* is located three or more stories above the lowest *level of exit discharge*;
2. Any *dwelling unit* or *sleeping unit* is located more than one story below the highest *level of exit discharge* of exits serving the *dwelling unit* or *sleeping unit*; or
3. The building contains more than 16 *dwelling units* or *sleeping units*.
4. *Congregate living facilities* or *congregate residences* with more than 16 occupants.

**Exceptions:**

1. A fire alarm system is not required in buildings not more than two stories in height where all *dwelling units* or *sleeping units* and contiguous attic and crawl spaces are separated from each other and public or common areas by at least 1-hour *fire partitions* and each *dwelling unit* or *sleeping unit* has an *exit* directly to a *public way*, *exit court* or yard.
2. Manual fire alarm boxes are not required where the building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#) or [903.3.1.2](#) and the occupant notification appliances will automatically activate throughout the notification zones upon a sprinkler water flow.
3. A fire alarm system is not required in buildings that do not have interior *corridors* serving *dwelling units* and are protected by an *approved automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#) or [903.3.1.2](#), provided that *dwelling units* either have a *means of egress* door opening directly to an exterior *exit access* that leads directly to the *exits* or are served by open-ended *corridors* designed in accordance with [Section 1026.6](#), Exception 4.