



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7346**



Date June 24, 2014

Edition 2010

Section 314.3.1

Question:

Is it the intent of 2010 FBC-R 314.3.1 that smoke alarms be addressed if changing out the service panel on the exterior of the building is the only work on the electrical permit?

Answer

No, if all of the work is exterior.

Commentary:

It is a well known fact that smoke alarms save lives. One

of the exceptions allows for the installation of battery

powered alarms, where appropriate. Interconnected battery powered alarms are now available as well.

This section of code, while perhaps in the wrong place, it should have been located in the Existing Buildings Volume, is an important life safety section and put in based on changes to Statute, making it law! Whenever work is done, smoke alarms should be installed if they do not exist.

While the code may exempt exterior work, we all have a responsibility to life safety and this installation should

be encouraged if it is not required.

Notice:

The Building Officials Association of Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission, the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation, ICC, and industry and professional experts offer this interpretation of the Florida Building Code in the interest of consistency in their application statewide. This interpretation is informal, non-binding and subject to acceptance and approval by the local building official.