



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7787**



Date June 03, 2016

Edition 2014

Section 907.2.11.2

Question:

As part of the company's service to customers we offer to check smoke alarms with canned smoke. If I find an older, hard wired alarm that no longer functions properly can said alarm be replaced with a new BATTERY OPERATED alarm as long as the battery in said alarm is of the 10 year type as now required? Or must the replacement alarm also be hard wired as well as have a 10 year battery back up? Thank you.

Answer

No. Please see the attached commentary

Commentary:

907.2.11.4 states that hard wired alarms are required for new construction. Lacking any more information, if the alarm was hard-wired to begin with, it must have been required at the time it was installed, and must be replaced in-like-kind.

FBC, Existing Building section: SECTION 603 FIRE PROTECTION
603.1 General. Repairs shall be done in a manner that maintains the level of fire protection provided.

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.