



# Bradley County Building Inspections

155 Broad Street, NW Cleveland, TN 37311  
Phone: (423) 728-7106 \* Fax (423) 478-8884  
Email: trice@bradleyco.net

# Memo

From: Bradley County Building Inspections

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There have been some changes in the electrical requirements for smoke detectors in one and two-family dwellings. These changes are effective January 1, 2006 in reference to Tennessee Code Annotated Section 68-120-111. This amended law states that smoke detectors are to be installed in accordance with the 2003 International Residential Code and in accordance with the manufacturer's directions, unless those directions conflict with applicable codes adopted by the state fire marshal.

Section R313 of the International Residential Code states:

**[F] R313.1 Smoke alarms.** Smoke alarms shall be installed in the following locations:

1. In each sleeping room.
2. Outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.
3. On each additional story of the dwelling, including basements but not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics. In dwellings or dwelling units with split levels and without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level provided that the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level.

When more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed within an individual dwelling unit the alarm devices shall be interconnected in such a manner that the actuation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the individual unit. The alarm shall be clearly audible in all bedrooms over background noise levels with all intervening doors closed.

All smoke alarms shall be listed and installed in accordance with the provisions of this code and the household fire warning equipment provisions of NFPA 72.

In new construction, the required smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring when such wiring is served from a commercial source, and when primary power is interrupted, shall receive power from a battery.