

CHAPTER 9 FIRE PROTECTION AND LIFE SAFETY SYSTEMS

SECTION 907.10
2018 Edition
IFC Interpretation 01-18
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907.10 Smoke alarm maintenance. Smoke alarms shall be tested and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. Smoke alarms shall be replaced when they fail to respond to operability tests, or when they exceed 10 years from the date of manufacture, unless an earlier replacement is specified in the manufacturer’s published instructions.

REFERENCED SECTIONS:

CHAPTER 1 SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 102 APPLICABILITY

[A] 102.1 Construction and design provisions. The construction and design provisions of this code shall apply to:

1. Structures, facilities and conditions arising after the adoption of this code.
2. Existing structures, facilities and conditions not legally in existence at the time of adoption of this code.
3. Existing structures, facilities and conditions where required in Chapter 11.
4. Existing structures, facilities and conditions that, in the opinion of the *fire code official*, constitute a distinct hazard to life or property.

[A] 102.2 Administrative, operational and maintenance provisions. The administrative, operational and maintenance provisions of this code shall apply to:

1. Conditions and operations arising after the adoption of this code.
2. Existing conditions and operations.

CHAPTER 11 CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS

SECTION 1101 GENERAL

1101.2 Intent. The intent of this chapter is to provide a minimum degree of fire and life safety to persons occupying existing buildings by providing minimum construction requirements where such existing buildings do not comply with the minimum requirements of the *International Building Code*.

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Q: Does the requirement for the replacement of smoke alarms exceeding 10 years of age from the date of manufacture apply to “existing buildings”?

A: Yes.

Even though this provision is not found in Chapter 11 CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS, this provision is applicable to existing smoke alarm installations.

Smoke alarms shall be replaced when they fail to respond to operability tests, or when they exceed 10 years from the date of manufacture, unless an earlier replacement is specified in the manufacture’s published instructions. Section 102.2 states that the administrative, operation and maintenance provisions of the code apply to both conditions and operations arising after the adoption of the code and also to existing conditions and operations. Based

on Section 102.2 and the specific time limit given in Section 907.10, Section 907.10 applies to both new and existing fire alarm installations.

In Section 102.1 Item #3 and Section 1101.2 it is stated that Chapter 11 provides the minimum construction requirements for existing buildings. The replacement of smoke alarms when they exceed 10 years from the date of manufacture is an operational and maintenance requirement for new and existing smoke alarms and not a construction requirement.
