



Smoke Detectors

Bulletin # 35

Department of Planning and Land Services, June 2007
Division of Building Safety and Inspection for 2006 I Codes

Smoke Detectors in Sleeping Rooms

Determination:

As determined by the Pierce County Building Official; for the use in IRC, Section 313.1, **Sleeping Room** is defined as: Any room used or that could be used as a sleeping room, excluding bath, kitchen, living, dining, media, bonus, and family rooms.

Sleeping rooms are generally of similar size as other bedrooms in the house. They are a separate room with a door and with or without a closet. Bonus rooms, often above the garage, shall be noted as non-sleeping on the plans and in the permit system comments.

Background:

The International residential Code (IRC) does not define sleeping room. Normal use of the term refers to a bedroom. It has been the practice of a few builders to rename a bedroom to meet a septic design limitation. A four bedroom floor plan is changed to three bedrooms and a den to match the three bedroom septic design.

This Bulletin will not address the Health Department's interpretation of bedrooms rooms. The scope of this Bulletin is to provide guidance on what to do with these renamed bedrooms and other similar rooms. The IRC has egress window and smoke detector requirements for these rooms.

There are plans where it may be harder to make the determination to treat a den as a possible bedroom. The definition provided herein is intended to provide help in making the determination. Most of the time it is reasonably obvious when a room could also be a sleeping room.

This directive is not intended to apply to rooms that are obviously kitchens, living, dining, family, or similar rooms. It does apply to those rooms that are not obvious as to their use.