



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
South Carolina Building Codes Council
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Request for Statewide Code Modification

Jurisdiction or Organization: Chester Fire Department / BOASC

Representative: Don Wood **Title:** Fire Marshal

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Signature: *Don Wood* **Date:** 05/24/2018

Code: International Residential Code **Edition:** 2018 **Section:** IRC R315.2.2

Check One: Delete and substitute the following Delete without substitution Add the following Modify the following
 Type or print proposed modification. Use additional pages if necessary. Underline New language. ~~Line Through Deleted Language.~~

R315.2.2 Alterations, repairs and additions.
 Where alterations, repairs or additions requiring a permit occur, the individual dwelling unit shall be equipped with carbon monoxide alarms located as required for new dwellings.

Exceptions:

1. Work involving the exterior surfaces of dwellings, such as the replacement of roofing or siding, or the addition or replacement of windows or doors, or the addition of a porch or deck.
2. Installation, alteration or repairs of plumbing or mechanical systems other than installation or alteration of fuel-fired systems and appliances.

Reason: Unusually Restrictive Impractical Threat to Human Injury or Life Safety
 Type or print the reason for the proposed modification. Use additional pages if necessary.

Exception 2. of the 2018 edition of the International Residential Code section R315.2.2 exempts the requirement for carbon monoxide alarms to be added in existing homes requiring a permit if the permitted work is for plumbing or mechanical installation, alteration, or repair. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stated the following: "Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless toxic gas produced by incomplete combustion in fuel-burning devices such as motor vehicles, gas-powered furnaces, and portable generators. Persons with CO poisoning often overlook the symptoms (e.g., headache, nausea, dizziness, or confusion), and undetected exposure can be fatal. Unintentional CO exposure accounts for an estimated 15,000 emergency department visits and 500 unintentional deaths in the United States each year".

Modification will require a carbon monoxide alarm be installed when work requiring a permit involves fuel-fired appliances or systems in existing homes. According to SCDHEC data, from 1999 to 2009, 48 people in South Carolina died due to unintentional exposure to CO (not including those who died from CO poisoning as a result of house fires). IRC (2018) R315.6 exception 2. allows the use of the less expensive battery powered type carbon monoxide alarm for an existing home.