

05-01-08

**NEWS FROM THE MECHANICAL INSPECTORS
CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM INSPECTIONS**

SMOKE DETECTORS-ALWAYS A CONCERN

606.1 Controls required. Air distribution systems shall be Equipped with smoke detectors listed and labeled for installation In air distribution systems, as required by this section. Duct Smoke detectors shall comply with UL 268A. Other smoke detectors Shall comply with UL 268.

606.4.1 Supervision. The duct smoke detectors shall be connected To a fire alarm system. The actuation of a duct smoke detector shall activate a visible and audible supervisory signal at a constantly attended location.

Exceptions:

1. The supervisory signal at a constantly attended location is not required where the duct smoke detector activates the building's alarm-indicating appliances.
2. In occupancies not required to be equipped with a fire alarm system, actuation of a smoke detector shall activate a visible and an audible signal in an approved location. Duct smoke detector trouble conditions shall activate a visible or audible signal in an approved location and shall be identified as air duct detector trouble.

The code requires smoke detectors be installed when the CFM of a system exceeds more than 2000 CFM and serves more than one space. When two or more air systems serve a common space and one or more of these systems also serve additional spaces, and the combined capacity of these systems exceeds 2000 CFM, a smoke detector is required for each return air system that serves the additional space. (This can information can be found in the 2006 NC Mechanical Code commentary). 606.4.1 Requires the smoke detectors be tied to the fire alarm system if one is installed in the building. If no fire alarm installed in the building exception 2 requires you to install a visible and audible alarm in approved location. An approved location would be an area where someone can see the alarm, maybe at the thermostat location on in a reception area.

You can see the interpretation from DOI on their web page about smoke detectors.

Permits have increased in the last two months and that is a great sign maybe that work is picking up. We are short an inspector now since we could not replace Darren Young. We are trying to get to your inspection request as soon as possible so please be patient.

The areas and the inspector locations will change in May sometime as soon as we know when we will post it on our home page. Please take the time to send any questions or concerns to me at anytime.

Please send any comments to miken@cityofws.org we would like to hear from you on any topics

Thanks

Mike Norris

Senior Mechanical Inspector