



Building Safety Division  
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710 NW Wall Street, Bend OR 97703

**TOPIC:** 520-Hz low frequency fire and alarm audible notification

**CODE:** 2022 Oregon Structural Specialty Code

### **I. Purpose**

Set a temporary path to compliance for 520-Hz low frequency fire and smoke alarm notification in sleeping rooms due to fiscal impact of current device availability.

### **II. Background**

With the adoption of the 2022 OSSC that became mandatory on all permits submitted after April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, Section 907.5.2.1.3 requires an audible 520-Hz signal for all sleeping rooms. Typical fire alarms do not notify the fire alarm panel when smoke is detected in the dwelling units to avoid nuisance alarms. Single and multi-station alarms are allowed in dwelling units for this purpose, per 907.2.11. In the 2022 OSSC, per 907.5.2.1.3.2 these alarms are also required to meet the 520-Hz signal requirement in the sleeping rooms.

The current cost estimate of compliance with these requirements is much higher than anticipated by the adopting committee. Oregon Building Codes Division will be reevaluating these requirements at the next OSSC structures board meeting.

### **III. Policy**

- This temporary policy will be in effect till October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, unless updated or rescinded. City Bend reserves the right to change this policy at any time.
- Single and multi-station smoke alarms required to be located in sleeping rooms to comply with the requirements of 907.2.11 will not be required to produce a 520-Hz signal if the fire alarm notification device(s) provided to meet the requirements of 907.5.2.1.3.1 (fire alarm system connected horn) can be heard in the sleeping rooms per 907.5.2.1.1 (15 decibels above ambient).