

New Standards for Smoke Alarms


UL 217 8th Edition — Safety Updates for Modern Living

Underwriters Laboratories (UL) released the latest update to their fire safety standards for smoke and combination alarms. Based on careful study of modern fire hazards and real-world safety concerns, UL 217 8th Edition represents the most significant update of manufacturing standards for smoke alarms in nearly two decades.


Why were the UL standards updated?

Research into environmental factors affecting fire safety concluded that modern construction, building materials, and fabrics contribute to significantly reduce how much time people have to escape during a home fire.

Decreased Escape Times







1978
17 minutes
(Approximately)



2018
3 minutes
(Approximately)

Hotter Faster Burns

-  Synthetic materials
-  Lighter construction materials
-  Open floorplans



Fire safety industry experts, including researchers at UL, created new performance standards for alarms and building materials to address these concerns.

What equipment will be impacted?

The new standards apply to smoke and combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarms. Stand alone carbon monoxide alarms are not affected.

ORDER THIS # WHEN THE CURRENT ITEM IS UNAVAILABLE.

Current Item #	Brand	Model #	Battery Type	New Item #	Model #	Battery Type
Smoke Alarm						
Battery (DC)						
153016	Kidde	i9010	Lithium	153201	20SD10	Sealed AA
153019	Kidde	i9040	9V	153202	10SDR	AA
153015	Kidde	P3010L	Lithium	153201	20SD10	Sealed AA
153017	BRK	FG250B	9V	153003	SM100	9V
153009	USI	MIB3050S	Alkaline	153042	AMI3051SB	9V
Direct Wire & Battery Backup (AC/DC)						
153060	Kidde	PI2010	9V	153203	SMACFEX	AA
153053	Kidde	P4010ACS	Lithium	153206	SMAC10YFEX	Sealed
153023	Kidde	i12040	9V	153203	SMACFEX	AA
153021	Kidde	i5000	9V	153203	SMACFEX	AA
153020	BRK	9120B	9V	153007	SMI1100-AC	9V
153059	BRK	9120LBL	Lithium	153013	SMI105-AC	Lithium
153065	USI	MI106S	Alkaline	153046	AMI1061SB	9V

ORDER THIS # WHEN THE CURRENT ITEM IS UNAVAILABLE.

Current Item #	Brand	Model #	Battery Type	New Item #	Model #	Battery Type
Combo Carbon Monoxide/Smoke						
Battery (DC)						
153028	Kidde	900-CUDR	2-AA	153205	30CUDR	2-AA
153014	Kidde	P3010K-CO	Lithium	153200	30CUD10	Sealed AA
153006	BRK	PRC710B	Lithium	153001	SMCO210	Lithium
153041	USI	MIC3510SB	9V	153044	AMIC3511SB	9V
Direct Wire & Battery Backup (AC/DC)						
153054	Kidde	P4010ACSCO	Lithium	153207	CUAC10YFEX-V	Sealed
153025	Kidde	900-CUAR	2-AA	153204	CUACFEX	AA
153005	BRK	SC9120B	9V	153000	SMICO100-AC	9V
153051	BRK	SC9120LBL	Lithium	153008	SMICO105-AC	Lithium
153040	USI	MIC1509S	9V	153043	AMIC1510SB	9V
Hearing Impaired Smoke Alarm						
Direct Wire & Battery Backup (AC/DC)						
153012	BRK	7020BSL	Lithium	153002	SM110LED-AC	Lithium

What are the deadlines for these standards?

All smoke and combination alarms manufactured after June 30, 2024, must meet the new standards. Items on hand at suppliers and retailers that were manufactured prior to the deadline may continue to be sold and installed.

What about currently installed smoke alarms?

Currently installed smoke and combination alarms will continue to offer quality protection through their standard lifespan. Most current smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years.

What are the expected benefits of the 8th Edition update of UL 217?

Equipment designed and manufactured to meet or exceed the UL8 standards will deliver three key benefits multifamily owners, managers, and residents will appreciate, including:

🔥 Improved Smoke Sensing Technology

Photoelectric sensing will more effectively detect slow, smoldering fires.

🔥 Earlier Warnings

Increased sensitivity allows smoke alarms to detect even smaller particles, leading to earlier, more accurate warnings.

🔥 Reduced Nuisance Alarms

Alarm systems have been calibrated to reduce false alarms caused by cooking-related smoke or steam and to provide clear end-of-life signals.



For more on the UL 217 8th Edition update, listen to this episode of The MRO Show.

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According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), nuisance alarms are the #1 reason people disable smoke alarms in their residence. This decision can lead to tragedy. Nearly 3 out of 5 home fire deaths happen because there is no working smoke alarm in the home.

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