



## SUBJECT

Visible Fire Alarms

Formerly 2007 - CAN 9-907.10.1.1

**CAN: 2-907.5.2.3.1**

**Effective: 7/14/2014**



## CODE SECTION

Section [F] 907.5.2.3.1

California Building Code (CBC)

**Section [F] 907.5.2.3.1 Public and common use areas.** Visible alarm notification appliances shall be provided in public *use* areas and common *use* areas *including but not limited to*:

1. Sanitary facilities including restrooms, bathrooms and shower rooms
2. Corridors
3. Music practice rooms
4. Band rooms
5. Gymnasiums
6. Multipurpose rooms
7. Occupational shops
8. Occupied rooms where ambient noise impairs hearing of the fire alarm
9. Lobbies
10. Meeting rooms
11. Classrooms

**Section 907.5.2.5 Groups I-2 and I-2.1.** Audible appliances shall be used in nonpatient areas. Visible appliances are allowed to be used in lieu of audible appliances in patient occupied areas. Audible appliances located in patient areas shall be only chimes or similar sounding appliances for alerting staff.

*In occupancies housing nonambulatory persons where restraint is practiced, staff and attendants shall be provided and housed or located in such a manner that such supervisory personnel will also be alerted upon activation of the fire alarm system or any detector required by this section.*

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## PURPOSE

Clarification is needed to specify locations where visual devices are required in health care facilities Group I-2 and I-2.1 Occupancies.

## INTERPRETATION

When fire-protective signaling systems are provided, they shall include visual alarms in the following areas:

**1. RESTROOMS (TOILET ROOMS) AND SIMILAR USES**

Includes the following:

- Public restrooms
- Staff restrooms
- Locker rooms
- Dressing rooms
- Accessible patient restrooms
- Patient restrooms that do not serve individual patient rooms

**2. CORRIDOR SYSTEM AND SIMILAR USES**

Includes the following:

- Public corridors
- Staff corridors
- Service corridors
- Vestibules
- Passageways

**3. GYMNASIUMS AND SIMILAR USES**

Includes the following:

- Physical therapy
- Rehabilitation therapy
- Occupational therapy

**4. MULTIPURPOSE ROOMS AND SIMILAR USES**

Includes the following:

- Auditoriums
- Dining rooms
- Cafeterias
- Occupiable outdoor patios and courts that require exiting through the building

**5. OCCUPIED ROOMS WHERE AMBIENT NOISE IMPAIRS HEARING OF THE FIRE ALARM AND SIMILAR USES**

Including the following:

- Kitchens
- Laundry areas
- Central sterilization
- Mechanical equipment rooms
- Generator rooms
- Boiler rooms
- Power plants

**6. LOBBIES AND SIMILAR USES**

Including the following:

Elevator lobbies

**7. MEETING ROOMS AND SIMILAR USES**

Including the following:

Conference rooms  
Waiting rooms  
Reception rooms/areas  
Lounges  
Chapels

**8. ANY OTHER AREA FOR COMMON USE WITH AN OCCUPANT LOAD OF AT LEAST SEVEN (7) AND SIMILAR USES**

Including the following:

Pharmacies  
Laboratories  
Office rooms/areas  
Imaging control rooms  
Operating rooms

When visual devices are used in patient occupied areas in lieu of audible devices, visual devices shall be located in all rooms and areas.

<u>Original signed</u>	<u>7/14/14</u>
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