



National Electrical Manufacturers Association

Representative Fred C. Cox  
4466 Early Duke St  
West Valley City, UT 84120

February 19, 2016

Via email: [fredcox@le.utah.gov](mailto:fredcox@le.utah.gov)

Dear Representative Cox,

The National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) Fire, Life Safety, Security and Emergency Communication Section is writing to convey its support for HB 125 which would amend the Utah State Fire Code with updated requirements for carbon monoxide detection in certain occupancies. We also recommend that the bill be amended to track more closely with the International Fire Code.

Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning is the leading cause of accidental poisoning death in the United States. High concentrations of CO—a colorless, odorless gas that is produced when fossil fuel is incompletely burned—can cause cognitive impairment, loss of consciousness, coma, and often death. In fact, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and prevention (CDC) reports that more than 400 people die in the U.S. each year from accidental CO poisoning and estimates that approximately 20,000 Americans seek medical attention annually due to carbon monoxide.

Utah residents are certainly not immune to these risks. On January 11, 2015, a CO leak at an apartment complex in Provo sent 9 people to the hospital. According to the Provo Fire Department, two of the victims had blood levels so high in CO that they required treatment in a hyperbaric chamber. These individuals were needlessly put in grave danger; had CO detectors been installed, the residents and their visitors would have been alerted to the presence of the deadly gas long before this level of exposure.

NEMA notes that the bill purports to include the requirements of Section 915 of the 2015 Edition of the International Fire Code (IFC). NEMA members support state adoption of the national codes and standards, including the International Fire Code. However, many of the relevant provisions of the IFC have been left out of HB 125's amendments. Some of these provisions are exceptions that would ensure that carbon monoxide detection devices are required to be installed only in locations where they would increase life safety. Other provisions not currently in HB 125 more clearly define installation requirements for carbon monoxide detection systems versus carbon monoxide alarms.

NEMA encourages Utah's elected representatives to amend HB 125 so that it tracks more closely with the carbon monoxide detection requirements in the IFC. NEMA stands ready to work with you to advance the amended bill. We hope that you will consider our industry as one of your best technical resources for carbon monoxide and life safety product information. We are available at any time to consult with you on these matters.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (703) 841-3245 or via email at [jonathan.stewart@nema.org](mailto:jonathan.stewart@nema.org) if you have any questions regarding NEMA's support for your bills or our suggested revisions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Stewart', is written over a horizontal line.

Jonathan Stewart  
Manager, Government Relations

NEMA is the association of electrical equipment manufacturers, founded in 1926 and headquartered in Arlington, Virginia. Its member companies manufacture a diverse set of products including power transmission and distribution equipment, lighting systems, factory automation and control systems, and medical diagnostic imaging systems. Worldwide annual sales of NEMA-scope products exceed \$100 billion. NEMA Fire, Life Safety, Security and Emergency Communication Section members manufacture fire, smoke, and carbon monoxide detection and warning equipment.