



National Electrical Manufacturers Association

Representative Paul Tine
N.C. House of Representatives
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 529
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

February 19, 2016

Via email: Paul.Tine@ncleg.net

Dear Representative Tine,

The Fire, Life Safety, Security and Emergency Communication Section of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) supports HB 781 which, if enacted, would require the landlord of a vacation rental property to install and maintain listed carbon monoxide (CO) alarms or detectors in each property that contains a fossil-fuel burning heater or appliance, a fireplace, or an attached garage.

CO poisoning is a 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.

NEMA's support for the bill notwithstanding, we respectfully propose one technical amendment, as follows:

A landlord of a residential property used for vacation rental shall:

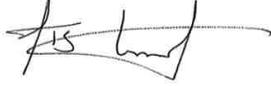
...

(6) Provide a minimum of one operable carbon monoxide alarm per rental unit per level, either battery-operated or electrical, that is listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory that is OSHA-approved to test and certify to American National Standards Institute/Underwriters Laboratories Standards ANSI/UL 2034 or ANSI/UL 2075, and install the carbon monoxide alarms in accordance with either the standards of the National Fire Protection Association or the minimum protection designated in the manufacturer's instructions... ~~A landlord that installs one carbon monoxide alarm per rental unit per level shall be deemed to be in compliance with the standards under this subdivision covering the location and number of alarms.~~

While the National Fire Protection Association Standard for the Installation of Carbon Monoxide Detection and Warning Equipment does require at least one CO alarm per each occupiable level of a dwelling (including basements), it also requires CO alarms to be located within the immediate vicinity of each bedroom. We strongly recommend that landlords be required to install the alarms accordingly to ensure that sleeping occupants are alerted to the presence of CO.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and please do not hesitate to reach out with further questions or for discussion. I can be reached at 703-841-3245 or jonathan.stewart@nema.org.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JS Stewart', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jonathan Stewart
Manager, Government Relations
703-841-3245
Jonathan.stewart@nema.org

NEMA is the association of electrical equipment manufacturers, founded in 1926 and headquartered in Rosslyn, Virginia. It represents nearly 400 electrical and medical imaging manufacturers. Our combined industries account for more than 400,000 American jobs and more than 7,000 facilities across the U.S. Domestic production exceeds \$117 billion per year. NEMA Fire, Life Safety, Security and Emergency Communication members manufacture fire, smoke, and carbon monoxide detection and warning equipment.

Cc:

Representative Jay Adams: Jay.Adams@ncleg.net
Representative John Bradford: John.Bradford@ncleg.net
Representative Duane Hall: Duane.Hall@ncleg.net