

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202
919-661-5880**

Smoke Detectors in Attics

Code: 2002 Electrical Code

Date: July 2, 2004

Section: 210.71(A)(2)(c)

Question:

I have an attic with access from permanent stairs meeting the Residential Code, a ceiling height of 7 feet and floored over 75% of the area. Is a smoke detector required for this area?

Answer:

Yes. Section 210.71(A)(2)(c) only excludes “uninhabitable attics” from the requirements for coverage. In defining this area we do not look at what is “habitable” but rather what would be considered uninhabitable. Use of this area is not a factor to be determined.