

# UL 217 8TH EDITION UPDATE



## WHAT IS UL 217 8TH EDITION?

An update to the UL standard will go into effect ~~June 30, 2022~~ for all manufacturers of smoke and combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

Alarms produced after this date must be compliant to the performance requirements as specified in the UL 217 8th edition Standard for Safety for Single and Multiple Station Smoke Alarms. The implementation date applies to the date of manufacture and does not prohibit the continued sell through of any inventory on hand at our BRK distribution center or in stock at electrical distributor locations at the time of the transition. Alarms manufactured prior to the transition date can continue to be installed in compliance with local building code requirements and job site specifications.

**UPDATE TO UL STANDARD DELAYED UNTIL JUNE 30, 2024**

## WHY AN UPDATE?

Research by fire industry experts found that fire dynamics in a home have changed over the last several decades. According to UL, newer synthetic materials in the home, more open layouts and lighter construction materials all burn hotter and faster. This research led the industry experts and UL to create new performance requirements for certain types of flammable material fires, such as polyurethane foam.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), nuisance alarms are a leading reason for disconnected smoke alarms. To enable manufacturers to produce more responsive alarms that do not cause nuisance alarms during cooking, UL conducted a research project to develop data on smoke characteristics during normal cooking events. This research led to new test requirements for nuisance alarm tests.

### EFFECTIVE DATE CONFIRMED - JUNE 30, 2024 PER UL BULLETIN

UL 217 8th Edition Affects all smoke and combination alarms



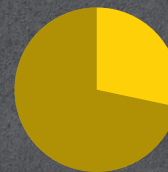
#### NEW TEST PARAMETERS:

- 1 Responsive to changes in home and finish materials
- 2 More stringent nuisance alarm criteria
- 3 More than 200 technical changes to the standard

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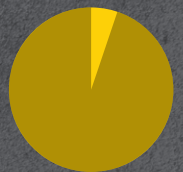
### ESCAPE TIMES IN HOME FIRES HAS DECREASED OVER THE LAST 40 YEARS

APPROX.  
**17 MIN**  
1978



Natural materials and furnishing

APPROX.  
**3 MIN**  
2018



Synthetic materials and open floor plans

Source: Smart Smoke Alarms and New UL Testing Standards, Presentation to International Fire Chiefs Association (IFCO) October 11, 2019, ifco.org



## PRECISION DETECTION TECHNOLOGY

Precision Detection is First Alert's advanced sensing technology that will be used for all smoke and combination alarms in that comply with UL 217 8th edition revised smoke alarm standards.

### Early Warning



There have been significant changes in home furnishing and finish materials over the past 30 years. Most modern-day household furniture are made from synthetic materials, which burns faster. First Alert Precision Detection technology gives you more time to escape in the event of an emergency as they detect smoke faster and provide early warning.

### Less Cooking Nuisance



First Alert Precision Detection technology smoke alarms will help distinguish between nuisance alarms and a fire emergency. Three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no working smoke alarms and the #1 reason why people disable smoke alarms is due to nuisance cooking alarms. (UL)