



# CHEAT SHEET FOR SMOKE DETECTOR SENSITIVITY TESTING

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ITEM	CODE REFERENCE
<b>SENSITIVITY TESTING REQUIREMENT</b>	
Other than those installed in one-and two-family dwellings, sensitivity of smoke detectors must be tested per the following.	NFPA 72-2016 14.4.4.3
<b>FREQUENCY</b>	
– Within one year after installation	NFPA 72-2016 14.4.4.3.1
– Then every alternate year thereafter	NFPA 72-2016 14.4.4.3.2
– After 2 <sup>nd</sup> test in range, extend test to 5 years (maximum)	NFPA 72-2016 14.4.4.3.3
If the frequency is extended, records of nuisance alarms and subsequent trends of these alarms shall be maintained.	NFPA 72-2016 14.4.4.3.3.1
In zones or in areas where nuisance alarms show any increase over the previous year, calibration tests shall be performed.	NFPA 72-2016 14.4.4.3.3.2
<b>WHEN TESTING IS NOT REQUIRED</b>	
<i>Smoke detector/control unit arrangement whereby the detector causes a signal at the control unit when its sensitivity is outside its listed sensitivity range</i> is an acceptable means of ensuring that each smoke detector is within its listed and marked sensitivity range. This means that physically testing each detector is <u>not</u> required.	NFPA 72-2016 14.4.3.2-17 (h)(4)
<b>TEST METHODS</b>	
Any of the following tests can be performed to confirm a detector is within its listed and marked sensitivity range:	NFPA 72-2016 14.4.3.2-17 (h)
1. Calibrated test method	
2. Manufacturer's calibrated sensitivity test instrument	
3. Listed control equipment arranged for the purpose	
4. Smoke detector/control unit arrangement whereby the detector causes a signal at the control unit when its sensitivity is outside its listed sensitivity range	