



# PINELLAS COUNTY CONSTRUCTION LICENSING BOARD

## COUNTYWIDE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEALS – LIFE SAFETY

### DOCKET NO. 15-01-LS

STEVE STRONG, FIRE MARSHALL

Appellant,

\_\_\_\_\_ /

### DECISION OF THE COUNTYWIDE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEALS LIFE SAFETY

**INTERPRETATION:** Approved.

This matter came before the Countywide Board of Adjustment and Appeals Life Safety in accordance with Section 31-32, Chapter 75-489, Laws of Florida, as amended, on July 7, 2015. There were no exclusions of evidence or testimony. The hearing was recorded.

Appellant, Steve Strong, on behalf of the Fire Marshalls, requested an interpretation by the board of the following Code Section 2014 Florida Statute 553.883.

#### **553.883, F.S.**

One-family and two-family dwellings and townhomes undergoing a repair, or a level 1 alteration as defined in the Florida Building Code, may use smoke alarms powered by 10-year nonremovable, nonreplaceable batteries in lieu of retrofitting such dwelling with smoke alarms powered by the dwelling's electrical system.

Effective January 1, 2015, a battery-powered smoke alarm that is newly installed or replaces an existing battery-powered smoke alarm must be powered by a nonremovable, nonreplaceable battery that powers the alarm for at least 10 years. The battery requirements of this section do not apply to a fire alarm, smoke detector, smoke alarm, or ancillary component that is electronically connected as a part of a centrally monitored or supervised alarm system.

History.—s. 25, ch. 2014-154.

After discussion, consideration of the facts, and review of the code language, a motion was presented by Member Tafelski that was seconded by Member Cooper that resulted in a unanimous vote of the following findings.

**FINDINGS:**

This board recognizes a conflict between F.S. 553.883 and the Florida Fire Prevention Code, 663.202, NFPA Life Safety Code 101, therefore the language in the Life Safety Code 101 will prevail regarding the installation of battery powered smoke alarms in existing one-and two-family dwellings and townhomes not undergoing a repair or a level 1 alteration as defined in the Florida Building Code.

**ATTENDING:**

Appellant:

Steve Strong, Fire Marshall

Countywide Board of Adjustment and Appeals – Life Safety:

Thomas Tafelski

Michael Domante

Gary Berkheimer

Bruce Cooper

Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board:

Rodney S. Fischer, Executive Director

Anne L. Maddox, Department Administrative Manager

Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rodney S. Fischer, Executive Director