

## Information Bulletin

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# Clarification for the Installation of Fire Alarm Visual Signal Devices

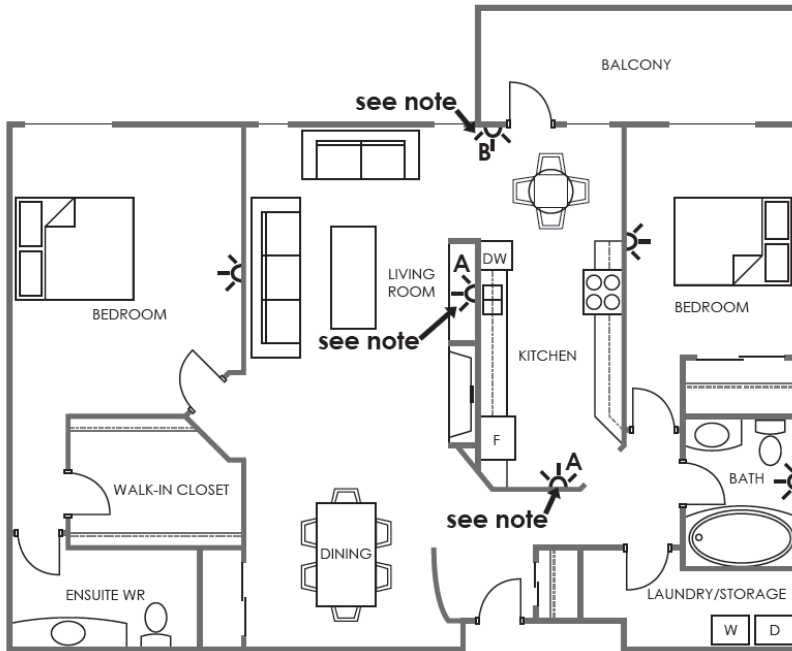
The Manitoba amendment to National Building Code Sentence 3.2.4.20.(1) requires that visual fire alarm signal devices be installed in all buildings.

The City of Winnipeg interpretation of this requirement is that the visual signals must be visible throughout the floor area, similar to the requirement that fire alarm system audibility is required throughout the floor area. It is reasonable then, that the visual signals should be visible from every location where people are likely to spend any length of time.

It should not be assumed that this requirement is met by simply locating visual signal devices in egress routes. In most cases, there will need to be more visual signal devices provided than what is typically provided for audible devices. Refer to CAN/ULC-S524 Standard for guidelines for visibility of visual signals.

By nature of their usage, every bathroom and every sleeping room in suites of residential occupancy shall have visual signals installed. These signals would be in addition to those required in the remainder of the dwelling unit to meet the above noted requirement that the signals be visible throughout the floor area. Refer to the dwelling unit plan below for a typical visual signal layout.

Visual signal devices are required to be installed only where new fire alarm systems are being installed after the coming into force of the January 1, 2012 Manitoba Building Code amendments.



note:  
The two devices shown at the locations marked “A” may be substituted by the single device shown at location “B” if it is deemed that adequate visibility is provided by the single device.

**DWELLING UNIT PLAN - TYPICAL VISUAL SIGNAL LAYOUT  
NTS**