



Representative Chris Tuck

Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 216
Juneau, AK 99801

Phone: (907) 465-2095
Toll-free: (866) 465-2095

House Bill 218 – “Smoke/Fire Dampers & Smoke Control Systems”

Sponsor Statement

As a result of Alaska’s cold climate, nearly every commercial, industrial, and public building must be heated. The goal of House Bill 218 is to ensure that the fire life safety components as part of the HVAC systems in these buildings are functioning as designed. These components include fire dampers, smoke dampers, and smoke control systems. House Bill 218 requires technicians and contractors to obtain a certification recognized by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) under the ISO/IEC 17024 standard to perform inspections and testing of fire dampers, smoke dampers, and smoke control systems.

Alaska law follows the International Fire Code by requiring the HVAC fire life safety components within the commercial, industrial, and public buildings to be inspected and tested consistent with the developed standards of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Currently, sprinkler systems, fire alarms, and fire extinguishers in Alaska are inspected by a technician and/or contractor that must be certified. House Bill 218 would create a similar requirement for a technician and/or contractor to perform periodic inspections of fire dampers, smoke dampers, and smoke control systems.

NFPA standards 80 and 105 require fire and smoke dampers to be inspected within one year of initial installation and every four years thereafter, except for hospitals which must be inspected once every six years. NFPA standard 92 requires dedicated smoke control systems to be tested every six months and non-dedicated smoke control systems to be tested annually.

House Bill 218 is a public safety bill that will help ensure that the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning fire life safety components utilized and installed in commercial, industrial, and public structures in Alaska are safe and in good working order.