

Radon Testing in Private School Buildings

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December 14, 2020 | 2020-R-0303

Issue

Describe whether Connecticut or any other state requires private schools to test their buildings for radon.

Summary

Connecticut law does not require private school buildings to be tested for radon. It does, however, require public schools that have been built, extended, or renovated on or after January 1, 2003, to be tested by January 1, 2008, and every five years subsequently ([CGS § 10-220\(d\)](#), as amended by [PA 19-58](#)). There is no testing requirement for public schools built, extended, or renovated before that date.

We found at least four states that require private schools to test for radon (Colorado, Florida, Rhode Island, and Virginia). Some of these states apply this requirement only to private schools that meet certain criteria, and others apply it to all private schools statewide.

Other States' Laws and Regulations

Colorado

In state regulation, Colorado's Department of Public Health and Environment requires private schools to complete radon testing using procedures described by the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists. Schools must keep the test results on the premises and make them available for review. The regulation does not specify how often the testing must occur (presumably, it is at least once).

Additionally, schools built after April 14, 2015, must complete radon tests within 19 months after the date of occupancy. Schools remodeled after that date must notify the department so that it may determine whether any additional radon testing is needed ([Colo. Code Regs. § 1010-6:6.8](#)).

State law gives the department the authority to establish these regulations ([Colo. Rev. Stat. § 25-1.5-101\(1\)\(h\)](#)).

Florida

State law requires private school buildings or school sites housing students in kindergarten through grade 12 to have their level of indoor radon tested, but only if the building is located in a county designated as “intermediate” or “elevated radon potential” on the Department of Business and Professional Regulation’s Florida Radon Protection Map. The test must follow measurement procedures established by the state’s Department of Public Health ([Fla. Stat. § 404.056\(4\)](#)).

The required testing timeline is as follows:

- Initial measurements: within one year after the building is opened for occupancy, or within one year after license approval for the entity residing in an existing building, at least 20% of habitable first floor spaces within the building must be tested.
- Follow-up measurements: after the building has been occupied for five years, testing must be completed in 5% of the habitable first floor spaces within the building; results must be reported to the department by the first day of the sixth year of occupancy.
- Further testing: not needed after measurements have been made twice, unless significant structural changes occur.

Rhode Island

State law authorizes the Department of Health to establish regulations requiring radon testing by appropriate school officials of each area within private schools occupied by children in kindergarten through grade 12 ([R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-61-4\(8\)\(vi\)](#)). Agency regulations require all schools to be tested for radon ([216-RICR-20-10-4.31](#)). Private schools must notify families of all attending students of a radon test result greater than or equal to 4 pCi/L (0.02 WL) within 30 days of receiving the result. The notice must use language supplied by the Department of Health ([216-RICR-50-15-2.6](#)).

Virginia

State law requires every school building in the state to be tested for radon by July 1, 1994, using United States Environmental Protection Agency procedures. This appears to be a one-time testing requirement.

School buildings opened after this date must also be tested. Each school must maintain files of its test results and make them available for review. The superintendent must report the results to the state’s Department of Public Health ([Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-138](#)).

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