

Guidelines for Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Requirements

Massachusetts - Residential Dwelling Units

Year built, substantially renovated, or add/create bedroom	Before 1975	1975 - 8/26/97	8/27/97 - 2007	1/08 - 2/11	2/11 - Present
All Smoke Alarms Must be Ceiling Mounted					
Smoke Alarm Power Supply:	Battery**** or Hardwired	Hardwired, Interconnected	Hardwired, Interconnected w/ battery backup	Hardwired, Interconnected w/ battery backup	Hardwired, Interconnected w/ battery backup
Type of Smoke Alarm Technology : (Photoelectric or Photoelectric/Ionization)					
On the same level, if a required detector is More than 20 ft. from a kitchen or bathroom doorway it shall be:	<i>Photoelectric Only or Dual Photo/Ionization</i>	<i>Photoelectric Only or Dual Photo/Ionization</i>	<i>Photoelectric Only or Dual Photo/Ionization</i>	<i>Photoelectric Only or Dual Photo/Ionization</i>	Photoelectric Only
On the same level, if a required detector is Within 20 ft. of a kitchen or bathroom doorway it shall be:	Photoelectric Only	Photoelectric Only	Photoelectric Only	Photoelectric Only	Photoelectric Only
Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm Power Supply and Placement					
Battery or Plug-in w/ battery backup	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Hardwired, interconnect w/ battery backup	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Required	Required
CO Alarm Placement: A CO shall be located on every bedroom door.	each habitable level including basements and attics with permanent stairs, within 10 ft. of				
Smoke/Heat Alarm Placement					
Base of every stair (but not within the stairway) leading to an occupied floor above	Smoke	Smoke	N/A	Smoke	Smoke
Outside every sleeping area	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke
<i>Inside every sleeping area**</i>	N/A	N/A	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke
Attic with permanent stair case***	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke
Garage - Attached or living space above	N/A	N/A	N/A	Heat	Heat

** It is not an office if it has a closet. It is considered a bedroom.

*** No Smoke Alarm is **required** if the attic temperature can go below 40F or over 100F

**** Battery powered devices replaced after December 1, 2016 must be Photoelectric with 10 year sealed battery and hush feature
Detectors must be listed i.e UL

A Combination Smoke and CO alarm is permitted but **must** have **both** a tone and voice feature

One Smoke alarm is needed for every 1200 sq. ft. of area per floor (built or renovated 1975 - 2017)

One Smoke alarm is needed for every 1000 sq. ft. of area per floor (built or renovated 2018 - present)

Wireless alarms (such as NEST) may be used **but** if the property is required to be hardwired you **must** have primary power (110v) to each alarm. You may interconnect wirelessly. Houses built before 1975 can be all battery power.

No more than 18 alarms (maximum of 12 being Smoke alarms) can be interconnected without having a Fire Alarm system installed

Alarms older than 10 years must be replaced

This document is a guideline. Please call Fire Prevention if you still have questions. 781-316-3803