

Guidelines For Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Requirements

Massachusetts – Residential Dwelling Units

Year Built or Substantially Modified	↓ Before 1975 ↓	↓ 1975 - 8/27/97 ↓	↓ 8/27/97 – 2008 ↓	↓ 9/1/08 – 2/11 ↓	↓ 2/11 – Present ↓
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All Smoke Alarms Shall 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
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Type of Smoke Alarm Technology: (Photoelectric)

On the same level, If a required detector is located More Than 20 ft. from a kitchen or full bathroom doorway it shall be: →	** Photoelectric only with a sealed 10 year non rechargeable, non-replaceable battery.	Photoelectric only	Photoelectric only	Photoelectric	Photoelectric Only
On the same level, If a required detector is located Within 20 ft. of kitchen or full bathroom doorway it shall be: →		Photoelectric only	Photoelectric Only	Photoelectric Only	Photoelectric Only

Smoke Alarm Placement

On every habitable level & including the basement level on the CEILING ; at the base of each stairway leading to an occupied floor above. →	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke
On CEILING outside each Sleeping Area (in hallway)	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke
Inside every Bedroom →	Not Required	Not Required	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke
Finished Attic (Habitable) →	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke
Garage (Attached) →	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required	Heat Detector	Heat Detector

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm Power Supply & Placement

Battery or Plug-In w/battery backup: →	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Hardwired, interconnected w/battery backup:	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Required	Required

Alarm Placement: A CO alarm shall be located on each habitable level, including finished portions of basements and attics. A CO alarm shall be placed in the hallway OUTSIDE each separate sleeping area (where bedrooms are located), no farther than 10 ft. from ANY bedroom door.

▶▶▶▶ **EFFECTIVE 1/1/2015 SMOKE ALARMS OLDER THAN 10 YEARS MUST BE REPLACED WITH NEW ALARMS.** ◀◀◀◀

- One Smoke Alarm is needed for each 1,000 square feet of area, per floor. CO Alarms only have a 5 year life span.
- Combination Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarms **MUST** have a Tone and Voice Feature. If battery powered must have a 10 year sealed non rechargeable, non-replaceable battery.

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This document is a guideline. Please call your Fire Prevention Office if you still have questions @ 978-623-8660.