

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 ↓

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

Type of Smoke Alarm Technology: (Photoelectric or Ionization)

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 with a sealed 10 year non rechargeable non replaceable battery

Photoelectric OR Ionization

Photoelectric OR Ionization

Photoelectric OR Dual Detector*

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 with a sealed 10 year non rechargeable non replaceable battery

Photoelectric OR Ionization

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

Not Required

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.** ▶▶▶

* Dual Technology Smoke Alarms consists of one SMOKE alarm with both photoelectric and ionization technology & must have Hush Feature.

• One Smoke Alarm is needed for each 1,200 square feet of area, per floor. CO Alarms only have a 5, 7 or 10 year life span.

• Combination Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarms MUST have a Tone and Voice Feature and must have a 10 year sealed non rechargeable, non-replaceable battery.

Revised 11/2016

This document is a guideline. Please call your Fire Prevention Office if you still have questions.