

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 - Present ↓
Smoke Alarm Power Supply →	Sealed 10 year non-rechargeable, non-replaceable battery or Hardwired	Hardwired, Interconnected with Battery Backup		
Smoke Alarm Type →	Photoelectric (Ionization not permitted)			

SMOKE ALARM PLACEMENT - ALL SMOKE ALARMS SHALL BE CEILING MOUNTED

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
On CEILING outside each Sleeping Area (in Hallway)	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke
Inside Every Bedroom →	Not Required	Not Required	Smoke	Smoke
Finished Attic (Habitable) →	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke
Garage (Attached) →	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required	Heat

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARM POWER SUPPLY & PLACEMENT

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

USE of COMBINATION SMOKE & CO DETECTORS is ENCOURAGED

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.

- 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.

r. 8/2022

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