

Guidelines For Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Requirements

City of Lawrence, MA

Year Built or Year Substantially Modified with a Building Permit.	Before 1975	1975-8/27/97	8/27/97-2007	2008-present
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Power Supply for Detectors

Smoke Alarm Power Supply	10 Year Sealed Battery or Hardwired.	Hardwired, interconnected.	Hardwired, interconnected w/ battery backup.	Hardwired, interconnected w/ battery backup.
Carbon Monoxide Power Supply	Battery or Hardwired w/ Battery Backup.	Battery or Hardwired, interconnected, w/ Battery Backup.	Battery or Hardwired, interconnected, w/ Battery Backup.	Only Hardwired, interconnected w/ battery backup.

Type of Smoke Alarm Technology: (Photoelectric Only, No Ionization, No Dual)

Smoke Detectors	Photoelectric Only	Photoelectric Only	Photoelectric Only	Photoelectric Only
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Smoke Alarm, Heat Detector, or Combination Smoke & CO Placement

At the base of the Basement stairs	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Combination Smoke & CO
Base of the Stairs leading to Occupied floor above	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Combination Smoke & CO
Outside ea. Sleeping Area unless w/in appx. 6 ft of stove.	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Combination Smoke & CO
Inside every Bedroom (Hardwired after 1997)	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke
Finished Attic (Habitable)	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Combination Smoke & CO
Garage (Attached)	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required	Heat Detector

CO Alarm Placement

"CO Alarm" or "Combination Smoke & CO" shall be located on each habitable level (includes finished portions of basement/attic, includes laundry rooms, etc.).
"CO Alarm" or "Combination Smoke & CO" shall be placed in the hallway OUTSIDE each separate sleeping area (where bedrooms are located), located no further than 10 feet from ANY bedroom door.

Other Requirements / Common Reasons for Failed Inspections or Violation Notice

Mount all Smoke Detectors on the ceiling.	Replace all smoke detectors older than 10 years old and CO detectors older than 5 years old.
Mount all CO detectors on the wall.	Remove all trash or debris stored on the property and keep exits and egress free and clear.
Mount all Combination Smoke and CO Alarms on the ceiling.	Remove any unregistered vehicles from the property.
Hardwire Alarms in Common Areas if the home is Three to Five Units.	Remove any abandoned oil tanks on the property.
Have at least one Smoke Detector placed in every 1200 square feet of area, per floor.	Responsible party must be present and have all units & areas open for inspection & remove padlocks on bedroom doors.
Combination Smoke and CO Alarms must have a Tone & Voice feature.	Install automatic sprinklers if new construction or substantially rehabilitated 4 dwelling units or more, MGL ch. 148 Sec. 26I.
Mount all battery or plugin CO Alarms outside of the reach of children.	Other meter installed on property for each unit of occupancy.
Visibly post street number on the home, but not on the front door.	Do not be late for Smoke and CO Certification appointment.

This Document is a guideline and is subject to changes in law or code. . Please call or visit the City of Lawrence Fire Prevention Office if you still have questions.

978.620.3400

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