

Guidelines For Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Requirements

Massachusetts – Residential Dwelling Units

Year Built or Substantially Modified with a building permit: →	↓ Before 1975 ↓	↓ 1975 - 8/27/97 ↓	↓ 8/27/97 – 2007 ↓	↓ 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 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: →	Either: a Dual Detector* OR One Photoelectric AND One Ionization alarm	Photoelectric OR Ionization	Photoelectric OR Ionization	Photoelectric OR <u>Dual Detector*</u>	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 OR Ionization	Photoelectric Only	Photoelectric Only	Photoelectric Only

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), located no farther than 10 ft. from ANY bedroom door.

Smoke Alarm & Heat Detector Placement

At the base of the Basement stairs →	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke & CO	Smoke & CO
Base of Stairs leading to Occupied floor above →	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke & CO	Smoke & CO
Outside each Sleeping Area (in hallway) →	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke & CO	Smoke & CO
Inside every Bedroom →	Not Required	Not Required	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke
Finished Attic (Habitable) →	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke & CO	Smoke & CO
Garage (Attached) →	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required	Heat Detector	Heat Detector

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

* A **Dual Detector** consists of one detector with both photoelectric and ionization technology.

● **One Smoke Alarm is needed for each 1,200 square feet of area, per floor.**

● **Combination Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms MUST have a Tone and Voice Feature.**

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