

Guidelines for Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Requirements

Massachusetts – Residential 1 & 2 Family Homes

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 1,000 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.

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This document is a guideline. Please call the Dennis Fire Department at 508-398-0363 if you still have questions.