



SMOKE & CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

Requirements

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CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

Effective January 1, 2011, in new construction and alterations, repairs or additions exceeding \$1,000 in project valuation, an approved carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed in dwelling units and sleeping units within which fuel-burning appliances are installed, and in dwelling units that have attached garages.

In new construction, required carbon monoxide alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring (where such wiring is served from a commercial source) and shall be equipped with a battery back up. Alarm wiring shall be directly connected to the permanent building wiring without a disconnection switch, other than what is required for overcurrent protection. In dwelling units where there is no commercial power supply the carbon monoxide alarm may be solely battery operated. In existing dwelling units a carbon monoxide alarm is permitted to be solely battery operated where repairs or alterations do not result in the removal of wall and ceiling finishes or there is no access by means of attic, basement or crawl space.

Single and multiple-station carbon monoxide alarms shall be listed as complying with the requirements of UL 2034. Carbon monoxide detectors shall be listed as complying with the requirements of UL 2075. Carbon monoxide alarms and carbon monoxide detectors shall be installed in accordance with this code, the current edition of NFPA 720 "Standard for the Installation of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detection and Warning Equipment" and the manufacturer's installation instructions. Other carbon monoxide alarm and detection devices as recognized in NFPA 720 are also acceptable. Carbon monoxide alarms combined with smoke alarms shall comply with Section R315, all applicable standards, and requirements for listing and approval by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, for smoke alarms.

As applicable, all wiring for carbon monoxide and smoke alarms shall be installed before interior finishes are allowed to be installed. The single device or entire system shall be fully functional as a condition of final approval.

Carbon monoxide alarms shall be installed in the following locations:

- Outside of each separate dwelling unit sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedroom(s).
- On every level of a dwelling unit including basements.

Carbon monoxide alarms combined with smoke alarms shall comply with all applicable standards and requirements for listing and approval by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, for smoke alarms.

In addition to these requirements for new construction and alterations, repairs or additions, state law requires a carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed in all existing single-family dwelling units intended for human occupancy on or before July 1, 2011, and all other existing dwelling units on or before January 1, 2013.

SMOKE ALARMS

Effective January 1, 2011, in new construction and alterations, repairs or additions exceeding \$1,000 in project valuation, approved smoke alarms shall be installed in dwellings as per the requirements of Section R314 of the California Residential Building Code.

Smoke alarms shall be installed in the following locations:

1. In each sleeping room.
2. Outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.
3. On each additional story of the dwelling, including basements and habitable attics but not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics. In dwellings or dwelling units with split levels and without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level provided that the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level.
4. When more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed within an individual dwelling unit the alarm devices shall be interconnected in such a manner that the actuation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the individual unit.

In new construction, smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring provided that such wiring is served from a commercial source and shall be equipped with a battery backup. Smoke alarms with integral strobes that are not equipped with battery backup shall be connected to an emergency electrical system. Smoke alarms shall emit a signal when the batteries are low. Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than as required for overcurrent protection.

Smoke alarms are permitted to be solely battery operated in existing areas of buildings undergoing alterations or repairs that do not result in the removal of interior walls or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an attic, crawl space or basement available which could provide access for building wiring without the removal of interior finishes.