

# 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 – 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 <b>More Than 20 ft.</b> from a kitchen or full bathroom doorway it shall be:	Either: a <b>Dual Detector*</b> OR One Photoelectric <b>AND</b> 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 <b>Within 20 ft.</b> 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 and located no farther than **10 ft.** from **ANY** bedroom door.

### Smoke Alarm Placement

Finished Basement at base of 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			Smoke	Smoke	Smoke
Finished Attic (Habitable)	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke & CO	Smoke & CO
Garage (Attached)				Heat Detector	Heat Detector

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

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

● **Low Voltage fire warning systems are exempt from the dual detector technology requirement**

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

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