

# 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 – 2008 ↓ | ↓ 9/1/08 – 2/11 ↓ | ↓ 2/11 – Present ↓ |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|

### 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 |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|

### Type of Smoke Alarm Technology: (Photoelectric or Ionization)

|                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                       |                             |                             |                                        |                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------|
| On the same level, If a required detector is located <b>More Than 20 ft.</b> from a kitchen or full bathroom doorway it shall be: → | <b>** Photoelectric with a sealed 10 year non rechargeable non replaceable battery.</b>                                               | Photoelectric OR Ionization | Photoelectric OR Ionization | Photoelectric OR <u>Dual Detector*</u> | Photoelectric Only |
| On the same level, If a required detector is located <b>Within 20 ft.</b> of kitchen or full bathroom doorway it shall be: →        | <b>** Working smoke alarms installed prior to 12/1/16 (that met requirements) can continue to be used until they are 10 years old</b> | Photoelectric OR Ionization | Photoelectric Only          | Photoelectric Only                     | Photoelectric Only |

### Smoke Alarm Placement

|                                                                                                                                                    |              |              |              |               |               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| On every habitable level & including the basement level on the <b>CEILING</b> ; at the base of each stairway leading to an occupied floor above. → | Smoke        | Smoke        | Smoke        | Smoke         | Smoke         |
| On <b>CEILING</b> outside each Sleeping Area (in hallway)                                                                                          | Smoke        | Smoke        | Smoke        | Smoke         | Smoke         |
| Inside every Bedroom →                                                                                                                             | Not Required | Not Required | Smoke        | Smoke         | Smoke         |
| Finished Attic (Habitable) →                                                                                                                       | Smoke        | Smoke        | Smoke        | Smoke         | Smoke         |
| Garage (Attached) →                                                                                                                                | Not Required | Not Required | Not Required | Heat Detector | Heat Detector |

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

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

\* **Dual Technology Smoke Alarms** consists of one SMOKE alarm with both photoelectric and ionization technology & must have Hush Feature.

• **One Smoke Alarm** is needed for each 1,200 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 and must have a 10 year sealed non rechargeable, non-replaceable battery.

*Revised 12/1/2016*

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