

Smoke/CO Alarm Reference Sheet

SMOKE POWER	SMOKE ALARM POWER SOURCE		Homes Built or Substantially Modified			
	Smoke Alarm Power Source(s)	Before 1975	1975 - 8/27/97	8/27/97 -2007	1/2008 -2/2011	2/1/2011 -PRESENT
	Authority	MGL 148/NFPA 1	MA BLD CODE 2-5	MA BLD CODE # 6	MA BLD CODE # 7	780 CMR/ BLD Ed. 8
	Battery Powered	Lithium Sealed	<i>NOT allowed</i>	<i>NOT Allowed</i>	<i>NOT Allowed</i>	<i>NOT Allowed</i>
	Hardwired, Interconnected	Allowed	REQUIRED	<i>NOT Allowed</i>	<i>NOT Allowed</i>	<i>NOT Allowed</i>
	Hardwired Interconnected w/ Battery Back-up	Recommended	Recommended	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED

SMOKE DETECTOR TYPE	SMOKE ALARM TYPE		Homes Built or Substantially Modified			
	Type of Smoke Alarm Installed	Before 1975	1975 - 8/27/97	8/27/97 -2007	1/2008 -2/2011	2/1/2011 -PRESENT
	Authority	MGL 148/NFPA 1	MA BLD CODE 2-5	MA BLD CODE # 6	MA BLD CODE # 7	780 CMR/ BLD Ed. 8
	OUTSIDE of 20 Feet of Kitchen or Full Bathroom	Must have Photo & CAN have Ionization*	Photoelectric OR Ionization	Photoelectric OR Ionization	Photoelectric OR Dual Detector	Photoelectric
	Within 20 Feet of Kitchen or Full Bathroom	Photoelectric	Photoelectric OR Ionization	Photoelectric	Photoelectric	Photoelectric

CARBON MONOXIDE	CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM		Homes Built or Substantially Modified			
	Carbon Monoxide Alarm Installed	Before 1975	1975 - 8/27/97	8/27/97 -2007	1/2008 -2/2011	2/1/2011 -PRESENT
	Authority	MGL 148/NFPA 1	MA BLD CODE 2-5	MA BLD CODE # 6	MA BLD CODE # 7	780 CMR/ BLD Ed. 8
	Battery Powered	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	<i>NOT Allowed</i>	<i>NOT Allowed</i>
	Plug-In with Battery Back-up	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	<i>NOT Allowed</i>	<i>NOT Allowed</i>
	Hardwired Interconnected w/ Battery Back-up	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	REQUIRED	REQUIRED

LOCATION REQUIREMENTS	ALARM LOCATION REQUIREMENTS		Homes Built or Substantially Modified			
	Smoke/CO Alarm Placement	Before 1975	1975 - 8/27/97	8/27/97 -2007	1/2008 -2/2011	2/1/2011 -PRESENT
	Authority	MGL 148/NFPA 1	MA BLD CODE 2-5	MA BLD CODE # 6	MA BLD CODE # 7	780 CMR/ BLD Ed. 8
	Basement (ALL)	SA/CO	SA/CO	SA/CO	SA/CO	HW PSA/CO
	Every Habitable Level	SA/CO	SA/CO	SA/CO	SA/CO	HW PSA/CO
	Base of Stairs	SA	SA	SA	SA	HW PSA
	Outside EACH sleeping area (w/in 10 ft)	SA/CO	SA/CO	SA/CO	SA/CO	HW PSA/CO
	Inside Every Bedroom	NOT REQUIRED	NOT REQUIRED	SA	SA	HW PSA
	Finished Attic (Habitable)	SA/CO	SA/CO	SA/CO	SA/CO	HW PSA/CO
	Garage (Attached)	NOT REQUIRED	NOT REQUIRED	NOT REQUIRED	HW Heat	HW Heat

HW=Hardwired/Interconnected, w/Battery Back-up

SA=Smoke Alarm

PSA=Photoelectric SA

HD=Heat Detector

CO=Carbon Monoxide Alarm

SMOKE ALARMS: All Smoke & Combo alarms must be **CEILING** mounted.

PHOTOELECTRIC - [P]: Most common type of alarm and most often used as a Smoke/CO combination alarm.

IONIZATION - (i): Alarms which state: "contains radioactive material" utilize  Ionization technology & most likely not allowed.

CARBON MONOXIDE: CO Alarms **MUST** be **OUTSIDE of sleeping areas**, within 10 ft of sleeping area door

DUAL DEVICE = one alarm device with both Photoelectric [p] and Ionization technology (i).

COMBO ALARMS: All Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarms combined into one device **MUST** have a **Voice/Talking** feature

PRE-75 HOMES: If not hardwired, all smoke/CO alarms **MUST** be Lithium Sealed battery & all alarms **MUST** not be older than 10 years

LOW VOLTAGE: Low Voltage fire warning systems are exempt from the dual detector technology requirement.

THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE

For assistance contact:
Boston Fire Department
Fire Prevention Division
617-343-2191