




MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 3, 2006

TO: Code Officials, Design Professionals, Contractors, and Suppliers

FROM: 
Jerry Rosendahl
State Fire Marshal


Thomas Joachim
State Building Official

SUBJECT: Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Background: The 2006 legislative session passed a new carbon monoxide (CO) law (Minn. Stat. § 299F.50) requiring CO alarms in all single-family homes and multifamily apartment units. Every single-family dwelling and every multifamily dwelling unit shall be provided with an approved and fully operational carbon monoxide alarm.

Effective Dates:

- Effective January 1, 2007 all newly constructed single family homes and multifamily dwelling units for which building permits were issued on or after January 1, 2007 shall be provided with an approved carbon monoxide alarm
- Effective August 1, 2008, all existing single family homes shall be equipped with an approved carbon monoxide alarm meeting U/L specifications.
- Effective August 1, 2009 all other multifamily or apartment dwelling units shall be provided with approved CO alarm.

General Location Requirements:

- Within ten (10) feet of each room lawfully used for sleeping purposes.

Listing or Certification of Detectors:

- All CO alarms shall be certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory to conform to the latest Underwriters Laboratory (UL) Standards (also known as UL2034 Standards).

Owner Responsibilities in Multifamily Dwellings:

- It shall be the owner's responsibility of a multifamily dwelling that is required to be equipped with carbon monoxide alarms to:
 - (1) Provide and install one approved and operational carbon monoxide alarm within ten feet of each room lawfully used for sleeping; and

(2) Replace any required carbon monoxide alarm that has been stolen, removed, found missing, or rendered inoperable during a prior occupancy of the dwelling unit and which has not been replaced by the occupant prior to the commencement of a new occupancy of a dwelling unit.

Power:

- CO alarms must be either be hardwired into the electrical wiring, directly plugged into an electrical outlet without a switch, or battery powered.

Battery Removal and Tampering Prohibited:

- No person shall remove batteries from, or in any way render inoperable, a required carbon monoxide alarm.

Exceptions for Certain Multifamily Dwellings and State-Operated Facilities:

- Multifamily dwellings may have approved and operational carbon monoxide alarms installed between 15 and 25 feet of carbon monoxide producing central fixtures and equipment provided there is a centralized alarm system or other mechanism for responsible parties to hear the alarm at all times.
- An owner of a multifamily dwelling that contains minimal or no sources of carbon monoxide may be exempted from the requirements provided that such owner certifies to the commissioner of public safety that such multifamily dwelling poses no foreseeable carbon monoxide risk to the health and safety to the dwelling units.
- The requirements of this section do not apply to facilities owned or operated by the state of Minnesota.

Enforcement:

- Building and Fire officials should collaborate on enforcement of this new law. For example plan review comments for new residential buildings permitted after January 1, 2007 should cite MS 299F.50 to ensure the new law is understood before construction proceeds.

If you have additional questions or need further information on the carbon monoxide legislation please contact the State Fire Marshal Division at 651-201-7200, visit our web site at www.fire.state.mn.us or e-mail your questions to firecode@state.mn.us.

You may also visit the Department of Labor and Industry web site at <http://www.doli.state.mn.us> or call 651-284-5060