

CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS – MINNESOTA STATUTE 299F.50

- All existing single family homes effective August 1, 2008.

1.4 Carbon monoxide alarm life-span. Carbon monoxide alarms have an effective life-span of 5-7 years. Many manufacturers recommend these devices be replaced at six (6) year intervals.

2.1 Location

Every single family dwelling and every multifamily dwelling unit shall be provided with a minimum of one approved and fully operational carbon monoxide alarm installed within ten (10) feet of each room lawfully used for sleeping purposes. If bedrooms are located on separate floors additional carbon monoxide alarms would be necessary within ten feet of these areas. If bedrooms are located in separate areas (on the same level), additional carbon monoxide alarms would be necessary within ten (10) feet of these areas. In lieu of installing multiple CO alarms in the hallway, a separate CO could be installed inside each sleeping room.

It is important that these devices be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installations instructions and not be placed in 'dead' air pockets such as corners of rooms, at the junction of walls and ceilings or within thirty-six (36) inches of ventilation ducts.

2.2 Height requirements

Carbon monoxide alarms shall be installed at the height specified in the manufacturer's installation.

MN State Fire Code Requirements

National Fire Alarm Code says: Single and multiple station smoke alarms installed in one-and two-family dwellings shall not remain in service longer than 10 years from the date of manufacture.

Minnesota State Fire Code Requirements:

- **In homes built prior to March 31, 2003.** Smoke detectors must be installed in hallways or areas which provide access to each separate sleeping area.
- **In homes built on or after March 31, 2003.** A smoke detector must be installed in each sleeping room in addition to a point centrally located in the corridor or area providing access to each separate sleeping area. Where more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed in a single family home, the smoke alarms must be interconnected so that the activation of one alarm will activate all the alarms in the home.
- **In homes constructed prior to August 1, 1989.** Smoke detectors may be battery powered only.

- **In homes constructed on or after August 1, 1989 and before March 31, 2003.** Smoke detectors must hard-wired to the home's permanent primary wiring, without a disconnecting switch. When new bedrooms are created, the detector in the new bedroom must receive its primary power supply from a centralized power source and be equipped with a battery backup.
- **In homes constructed on or after March 31, 2003.** Smoke detectors must receive their power from the home's permanent primary wiring when such wiring is served from a commercial source and be equipped with a battery backup.
 - Smoke detector location and spacing must be as follows, in addition to the manufacturer's instructions:
 - Smoke detectors must be mounted on the ceiling at least 4 inches from a wall or on a wall with the top of the detector not less than 4 inches, or more than 12 inches, below the ceiling.
 - A smoke detector installed in the basement must be located in close proximity to the stairway leading to the floor above.
 - Smoke detectors must not be installed within kitchens, garages, or in other spaces where temperatures can fall below 32 degrees F, or exceed 100 degrees F.
 - Smoke detectors must not be located within 3 feet of supply registers of a forced air heating or cooling system, and doors to a kitchen or bathroom with a tub or shower.
 - For peaked ceilings, the smoke detector must be installed within 3 feet of the peak.