Safety | Tips

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Code Requirements

The 2006 Alberta Building Code contains provisions requiring for carbon monoxide alarms to be installed in all new residential construction containing a fuel-burning appliance, a solid-fuel-burning appliance or a storage garage.

- **Where a fuel-burning appliance is installed in a suite of residential occupancy, a carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed:**
  - Inside each bedroom, **or**
  - Outside each bedroom, within 5m of each bedroom door.
- **Where a fuel-burning appliance is installed in a service room that is not in a suite of residential occupancy, each suite that shares a wall or a floor/ceiling assembly with the service room shall have a carbon monoxide alarm installed:**
  - Inside each bedroom **or** outside each bedroom within 5m of each bedroom door, **and**
  - In the service room.
- **Where a solid-fuel-burning appliance is installed in a suite of residential occupancy, a carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed:**
  - On or near the ceiling in the room containing the solid-fuel-burning appliance.
- **Each suite that shares a wall or floor/ceiling assembly with a storage garage *or* that is adjacent to an attic or crawl space to which the storage garage is also adjacent, a carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed:**
  - Inside each bedroom, **or**
  - Outside each bedroom, within 5m of each bedroom door.

Carbon Monoxide Alarm Requirements

Under the Alberta Building Code 2006, CO alarms must meet the requirements of the Canadian Standards Association's CAN/CSA Standard 6.19 "Residential Carbon Monoxide Alarming Devices." Labels found on certified CO alarms are your assurance that the alarm was tested and that it conforms to established safety standards.

As well as being a certified product, CO alarms must:

- Be mechanically fixed to a surface at a height recommended by the manufacturer, and
- Have no disconnect switch between the overcurrent device and the CO alarm when the CO alarm is powered by the dwelling unit's electrical system.

Both battery operated alarms and alarms that are connected to the dwelling unit's electrical system are acceptable. The average lifespan of CO alarms varies. There are several models on the market with many different features such as indicators to let the user know when they need to be replaced or power supply backups. Check your model to ensure that it has the features you need.

Existing Homes

Carbon monoxide alarms are a valuable safety tool. To safeguard against dangerous levels of CO gasses in a home, the installation of CAN/CSA-6.19 "Residential Carbon Monoxide Alarming Devices," are recommended for all existing homes.

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For more information, call 1-866-421-6929, or visit www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca.

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