

SMOKE ALARM REQUIREMENTS

TEST AND CLEAN YOUR SMOKE ALARMS BEFORE INSPECTION DATE

CHECK BELOW INFORMATION TO ENSURE YOUR SMOKE ALARMS MEET MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

There are different types of smoke alarms –

1. Battery operated smoke alarms-must be 10 year sealed battery type
2. Electric smoke alarms
3. Electric smoke alarms with interconnection
4. Electric smoke alarms with interconnection and battery backup

The type of smoke alarms required for a Certificate of Smoke Alarm, Carbon Monoxide Alarm and Fire Extinguisher Compliance will depend on the type of smoke alarms that were required at the time of original construction. Replacing electric smoke alarms with battery-operated smoke alarms is **not permitted**. Defective interconnected smoke alarms must be replaced with compatible alarms or when not possible all interconnected alarms must be replaced to meet the requirements of the Compliance Certificate.

HOUSE BUILT/RENOVATED:

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Prior to January 1977	Battery operated smoke alarms on all levels-sealed battery type
January 1977 – September 1978	Electric Smoke Alarm on each sleeping level Battery operated Smoke Alarm on all other levels-sealed battery type
October 1978 – January 1983	Electric Smoke Alarms on sleeping level and basement Battery Operated Smoke Alarms on all other levels-sealed battery type
February 1983 – July 1984	Electric Smoke Alarms on all levels
August 1984 – February 1991	Electric Smoke Alarms on all levels All Smoke Alarms must be interconnected
March 1991 – Present	Electric Smoke Alarms on all levels and inside each bedroom All Smoke Alarms must be interconnected All Smoke Alarms must be equipped with battery back-up

A smoke alarm is required within immediate vicinity of every bedroom door. If a level has more than one sleeping area, smoke alarms are required in each sleeping area.

The smoke alarm installed on the basement level and all levels without a sleeping area must be located in close proximity to the stairway leading to the floor above.

Smoke alarms must be properly mounted and secured to the ceiling or wall according to manufacturer specifications.

All smoke alarms must be UL listed or equivalent and must have a test button.

Common area hallways and stairs in two-family houses must have a smoke alarm at each landing.

Smoke alarms are NOT permitted:

- Within 5 feet of a kitchen (cooking vapors)
Exception: photoelectric type smoke alarms may be within 5 feet of a kitchen.
- Within 3 feet of an attic fan or the tips of a ceiling fan blades.
- Within 3 feet of the door leading to a bathroom containing a tub or shower (steam).
Exception: Photoelectric type smoke alarms may be within 3 feet of a bathroom.
- Within 3 feet of an air supply vent (supply or air flow)
- Within 1 foot of a light fixture.
- Within the "dead air space" where the wall meets the ceiling (ceiling smoke alarms must be at least 4" from the wall, wall mounted smoke alarms must be at least 4" and no more than 12" from the ceiling.
- Smoke alarms are NOT permitted to be painted.

Fire Alarm Systems will not be tested by the inspectors. Many of these systems do NOT meet the minimum requirements for a compliance certificate.

CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM (CO) REQUIREMENTS

A Carbon Monoxide Alarm is required in all 1 and 2 family dwellings that contain any fuel-burning device/appliance or have an attached garage.

Carbon Monoxide Alarm must meet the following requirements:

- May be electric operated or battery operated.
- Must be installed on each sleeping level.
- Must be installed in hallway within immediate vicinity of every bedroom door.
- Combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarms must be installed meeting the requirements for a smoke detector.
- Must be UL listed or equivalent.

CENTRAL STATION MONITORED ALARM SYSTEMS

If you have a central station alarm that actually meets the requirements indicated above you will need 2 inspections.

1. The alarm system must be certified as operational by a licensed NJ Fire Protection Contractor.
2. An inspection by the Local Enforcing Agency to ensure the proper placement of detectors

Note: Inspection by licensed contractor should be completed prior to inspection by local enforcing agency. Provide documents of successful inspection at time of local agency inspection.