



Carbon Monoxide Device FAQ

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Approved by:
RWM

On July 1, 2011, the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act (Senate Bill-SB 183) required all single-family homes with an attached garage or a fossil fuel source to install carbon monoxide alarms within the home. Owners of multi-family leased or rental dwellings, such as apartment buildings and hotels also need to comply with the law.

1. What is Senate Bill No. 183 (SB-183)?

SB-183 is also known as the “Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act” This senate bill requires that carbon monoxide (CO) detector be installed in all dwelling units intended for human occupancy. This includes apartments, single family dwellings, and hotels/motels.

2. What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that is produced from heaters, fireplaces, furnaces and many types of appliances and cooking devices. It can also be produced by vehicles that are idling.

3. Where can I find a list of all CSFM listed carbon monoxide devices?

SB-183 prohibits the marketing, distribution, or sale of devices unless it is approved and listed by the State Fire Marshal.. To find a listed device, click on the following link and search “Carbon Monoxide Alarm” or “Carbon Monoxide Detector” under “Category:

http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licenselisting_bml_searchcotest

4. What is the definition of a dwelling unit?

A dwelling unit is defined as a single-family dwelling, duplex, lodging house, dormitory, motel, condominium, time-share project, or dwelling unit in a multiple-unit dwelling unit building.

5. Where should CO devices be installed?

They should be installed outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home/unit including the basement. The manufacturer’s installation instruction sheet should also be followed. **CO detectors do not need to be installed on ceilings to be effective.**

6. Where can I go to receive further information on Carbon Monoxide?

NFPA has great information on Carbon Monoxide and it’s hazards. You can find them here:

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Fire-and-life-safety-equipment/Carbon-monoxide>

7. Who is responsible for enforcing the CO installation requirements?

Typically building departments enforce the requirements. If you are in a single family dwelling, the requirement is taken care of during the escrow process.

Install and test carbon monoxide (CO) alarms at least once a month.

CO is called the “invisible killer” because it’s a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. Breathing in CO at high levels can be fatal.

FEMA | U.S. Fire Administration

The infographic features a white carbon monoxide alarm with a red digital display showing '8.88'. It includes logos for FEMA and the U.S. Fire Administration, along with a Fire Department logo.