



What is CO (Carbon Monoxide)?

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas created when fossil fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, kerosene, and methane) burn incompletely. Heating and cooking equipment burning these types of fuel are potential sources of carbon monoxide. Vehicles or generators running nearby or in an attached garage can also produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.

Illinois passed the Carbon Monoxide Detector Alarm Act (430 ILCS 135) effective January 1, 2007. The requirements of this act are enforced by the local municipal Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). These AHJs may also enforce their own additional requirements regarding Carbon Monoxide Detection.

The Illinois Carbon Monoxide Detector Alarm Act calls for CO Detectors to be:

- Approved by a National testing agency, such as Underwriter Laboratories, or similar, and maintained in good working condition at all times;
- Installed in every occupancy or structure which utilizes the burning of fossil fuel for heat, cooking, ventilation, production of hot water, etc.;
- Installed in every occupancy or structure which has an attached garage;
- Installed in every occupancy or structure where an unattached, but nearby ventilated source of CO may enter the occupancy or structure, as determined by the Local AHJ.
- Installed within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping purposes, in every dwelling unit (defined as a room or suite of rooms used for human habitation, including a single-family residence, and each living unit of a multiple family residence, and each living unit in a mixed-use building);
- Every structure that contains more than one dwelling unit shall contain at least one approved carbon monoxide alarm in operating condition within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping purposes;
- Provided by owners of dwelling units in working condition with information supplied to the tenant or occupant for testing and maintenance;
- Tenants or occupants are responsible for testing and battery replacement per the supplied instruction and must notify the owner and allow the owner access to correct any problems;

Any questions regarding the determination of where CO detectors are required, should be directed to the local municipal Authority Having Jurisdiction.

While the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) does not enforce this statute, OSFM does enforce carbon monoxide detector requirements prescribed in certain occupancies of the 2015 edition of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Life Safety Code 101, effective January 1, 2020.