



Carlstadt Fire Department

Bureau of Fire Safety

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Certificate of Smoke Detector & Carbon Monoxide Alarm Compliance Guidelines

SMOKE ALARM/DETECTOR REQUIREMENTS

There are different types of smoke alarms/detectors

- Battery operated smoke alarms/detectors
- Electric smoke alarms/detectors
- Electric smoke alarms/detectors with interconnection
- Electric smoke alarm/detectors with interconnection and battery back-up

Test and clean your smoke alarms/detectors before your scheduled inspection date.

The type of smoke alarm/detectors required for a CSDCMAPFEC will depend on the type of smoke alarm/detectors that were required at the time of original construction. Replacing electric smoke alarms/detectors with battery-operated smoke detectors is NOT permitted. Defective interconnected smoke alarms/detectors must be replaced with compatible alarms/detectors or in the alternative; all interconnected alarms/detectors must be replaced to meet the requirements of CSDCMAPFEC. Check table below to ensure your smoke alarms/detectors meet the minimum requirements.

HOUSES BUILT/RENOVATED MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Prior to January 1977	Sealed Battery-operated smoke alarms/detectors on all levels.
January 1977-September 1978	Electric smoke alarms/detectors on sleeping levels. Sealed Batteryoperated smoke alarms/detectors on all other levels
October 1978-January 1983	Electric smoke alarms/detectors on sleeping & basement level Sealed Battery-operated smoke alarms/detectors on all other levels
February 1983-July 1984	Electric smoke alarms/detectors on all levels.
August 1984-February 1991	Electric smoke alarms/detectors on all levels. All alarms/detectors must be interconnected.
March 1991-Present	Electric smoke alarms/detectors on all levels & inside each Bedroom. All alarms/detectors must be interconnected and equipped with battery backup.

NOTE: Household fire alarm systems installed in accordance with NFPA 72 that include smoke alarms, or a combination of smoke detector and audible notification device installed as required by this section for smoke alarms shall be permitted.

The household fire alarm system shall provide the same level of smoke detection and alarm as required by this section for smoke alarms in the event the fire alarm panel is removed, or the system is not connected to a central station.

Carlstadt Fire Department Bureau of Fire Safety WILL NOT test Low Voltage, Central Station fire alarm systems. Many of these systems do not meet the CSDCMAPFEC requirements. Your alarm service company must test/certify them using an NFPA approved form.

- A smoke detector is required on every building level.
 - **EXCEPTION:** Split levels where you may omit a half-level, but not two adjacent half levels, and not if there is an intervening door between the levels. The lowest level and all levels with bedrooms must have smoke alarms.
- A smoke detector is required within 10 feet of every bedroom door. If a level has more than one sleeping area, smoke detectors are required on each sleeping area within 10 feet of every bedroom door.
- The smoke detector 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 detectors must be properly mounted and secured to the ceiling or wall. Smoke detector base must be flush with the ceiling/wall.
- All smoke alarms must be UL listed or equivalent and must have a test button.
- Common area hallways and stairways in two-family houses must have smoke detectors at each landing.

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Smoke detectors are NOT permitted:

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- If an addition is added to the structure the entire structure is required to be upgraded to the latest code requirements in effect at the time of the new construction.
- Ceiling mounting of smoke detectors is best. 6 Inches of clearance are required around smoke detectors for better air current and detection of smoke
- Smoke detectors are **NOT** required in crawl spaces.

ALL CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

- **MUST** be installed in all single- or two-family dwelling unit(s) that contain a fuel-burning device or have an attached garage.
- Single station carbon monoxide alarms shall be installed and maintained in the immediate vicinity of the sleeping area(s). **The alarm MUST be within 10 feet of every bedroom door.**
- Carbon monoxide alarms may be battery-operated, hard-wired or of the plug-in type and shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL-2034 and shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of NJAC5:70-4.19 and NFPA-720
- Combination Smoke Detector/Carbon Monoxide Alarms are permitted, but must comply with the requirements for smoke detectors.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

As of February 15, 2025, the portable fire extinguisher requirement has been removed.

