



**NASSAU COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL**

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FIRE MARSHAL BULLETIN

September 1, 2014 (*REVISED*)

To: Nassau County Fire Departments, Town / City / Village Building Departments, Business and Property Owners, and NYS Licensed Alarm Contractors

From: **Assistant Chief Fire Marshal Michael F. Uttaro - muttaro@nassaucountyny.gov**

The recently approved addition of Article VIII to the Nassau County Fire Prevention Ordinance to address the needs for the life safety requirement of carbon monoxide detection in all new and existing commercial buildings within the County of Nassau has raised questions regarding the implementation of this new law, so the following is an explanation of the law and direction on its implementation. Carbon Monoxide Alarms / Detection required for existing buildings shall have the system installed by January 1, 2015.

CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM – A single or multiple-station carbon monoxide alarm responsive to carbon monoxide.

MULTIPLE STATION CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM – A single station carbon monoxide detection alarm capable of being interconnected to one or more additional alarms so that the actuation of one causes the appropriate alarm signal to operate in all interconnected alarms.

SINGLE STATION CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM - A detector / alarm comprising an assembly that incorporates a sensor, control components, and an alarm notification appliance in one unit operated from a power source either located in the unit or obtained at the point of installation.

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR – A device connected to an alarm control unit (Fire Alarm System) having a sensor that responds to carbon monoxide.

Reference Standards:

NFPA 70-2008	National Electric Code
NFPA 72-2007	National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code
NFPA 720-2012	Installation of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detection and Warning Equip.

New Commercial Occupancies:

- Carbon Monoxide Alarm / Detection devices shall be installed as part of a Fire Alarm System in new occupancies that require a Fire Alarm System to be installed. These device installations shall be submitted as part of the Fire Alarm System plan submission with the required fees and paperwork.
- New occupancies that do not require the installation of a Fire Alarm System shall install Carbon Monoxide Alarm / Detection devices as independent single station or multiple station systems. These devices shall be installed by a NYS licensed alarm company and shall have a letter sent to the Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office on the installer's letterhead verifying their installation and satisfying the requirements of the Nassau County Fire Prevention Ordinance.

Existing Commercial Occupancies:

- Where a Fire Alarm System is maintained within an existing occupancy, the Carbon Monoxide Alarm / Detection devices shall be installed and interconnected to the existing Fire Alarm Systems. These devices shall be installed by a NYS licensed alarm company and shall have a letter sent to the Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office on the installer's letterhead verifying their installation and meeting the requirements of the Nassau County Fire Prevention Ordinance.

Exceptions:

1. Interconnection is not required in buildings that are not undergoing alterations, repairs or construction of any kind.
 2. Carbon monoxide alarm / detection devices in existing areas are not required to be interconnected where alterations or repairs do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an attic, crawl space or basement available which could provide access for interconnection without the removal of interior finishes.
- Where an existing occupancy does not maintain a Fire Alarm System, the Carbon Monoxide Alarm / Detection devices shall be installed and shall be permitted to be UL listed (or equivalent listing agency) plug in type devices or solely battery operated devices.

Additional Requirement and Installation Information

- Carbon Monoxide Alarm / Detector devices are considered life safety devices and therefore, devices installed as part of a Fire Alarm System shall send trouble signals to the alarm control panel and facilitate wiring supervision.
- Carbon Monoxide Detectors shall be located and installed on the ceiling in the same room as permanently installed fuel burning appliances.
- Carbon Monoxide Detectors shall be centrally located on every habitable level and in every tenant space of a multiple tenant building.
- Ceiling mounted Carbon Monoxide Alarm / Detector devices shall be located a minimum of twelve (12) inches from any wall or as specified by manufacturers specifications.

- Wall mounted Carbon Monoxide Alarm / Detector devices shall be minimum of eighty (80) inches off the finished floor and at least six (6) inches from the ceiling or as specified by manufacturer's specifications.
- In dwelling units, Carbon Monoxide Alarm / Detection devices shall be installed outside (a maximum of 15 feet as required by the Fire Code of NYS Chapter 6) each separate sleeping area or each room used for sleeping purposes and on every level of a dwelling unit, including basements.
- Assembly occupancies shall require additional Carbon Monoxide Alarm / Detector devices in every room accommodating fifty (50) or more occupants.
- Single station and Multiple Station Carbon Monoxide Alarms shall initiate a temporal four (4) alarm sequence upon activation of the device. Carbon Monoxide Alarm / Detector devices interconnected to Fire Alarm Systems shall initiate a temporal three (3) alarm sequence, as smoke and fire detection shall take precedence.
- Carbon Monoxide Alarm / Detector devices ceiling mounted shall be located a minimum of twelve (12) inches from any wall or as specified by manufacturers specifications.
- Carbon Monoxide Alarm / Detector devices wall mounted shall be minimum of eighty (80) inches off the finished floor and at least six (6) inches from the ceiling or as specified by manufacturer's specifications.
- Carbon Monoxide Alarm / Detector devices shall be located a minimum of three (3) feet from all air registers.

NYS Licensed Alarm Company Compliance and NCFM Notification Procedures

When adding Carbon Monoxide Detectors or combination Carbon Monoxide / Smoke Detectors to an existing approved Fire Alarm System, the NYS licensed alarm company shall submit a letter on their company letterhead stating that in accordance with the Nassau County Fire Prevention Ordinance, Article VIII, there have been ___ of detectors added to the existing approved fire alarm system. The detectors have been installed and tested in conformance with NFPA 720 2012 and NFPA 72 2007 and the system has a valid fire alarm permit issued by NCFM. Manufacturers cut sheets for these detectors shall be included with this letter as well. There is no fee or plan requirement for this work and there will be no approval letter sent by NCFM to the premise.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors added to existing conventional, zone type, fire alarm systems shall be programmed to have these detectors zoned separately as to transmit an alarm signal to the approved supervising station specifically identifying the carbon monoxide detector alarm activation. If an existing fire alarm control panel is at its capacity, an additional conventional sub panel will be permitted to be installed specifically for these required carbon monoxide detectors without the requirement of plans upon individual review and approval. The detectors and conventional sub panel have shall be installed and tested in conformance with NFPA 720 2012 and NFPA 72 2007. Manufacturers cut sheets for these detectors and the conventional sub panel shall be included with the required letter from the NYS licensed alarm company.