



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY  
John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner



**Division of Fire Safety**  
**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**  
J. William Degnan, State Fire Marshal

Office: NH Incident Planning & Operations Center, 110 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord, NH  
Mailing Address: 33 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03305  
603-223-4289, FAX 603-223-4294

**Informational Bulletin 2009-07**  
**Carbon Monoxide Detection Devices in Dwellings**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this informational bulletin is to clarify the requirements of RSA 153:10-a, as they apply to carbon monoxide detectors, and to provide guidance as to its implementation. This statute becomes effective on January 1, 2010.

**Explanation**

Section I of the statute requires that a carbon monoxide detection device (CMD) be installed in "each unit". A multi-unit dwelling is defined as:

*"any structure ... which contains 2 or more single units which provide permanent or transient living facilities which may or may not include cooking and eating facilities, for one or more persons. This term shall include but not be limited to: rooming houses, dormitories, motels, hotels, apartment buildings, buildings which contain condominium units, duplexes, and houses; provided, however, that such buildings contain 2 or more units."*

Section II, requires that each "single family dwelling" that is newly constructed or substantially rehabilitated after January 1, must be equipped with a CMD. Substantial rehabilitation is defined as:

*"any improvement to a building or single family dwelling which is valued at an amount greater than 1/2 of the assessed valuation of the building or dwelling." Note that this is the assessed value (the value on which the property taxes are based) not the resale value of the property.*

A CMD must be installed in every rental unit. A rental unit is defined as:

*"any residential unit in a building or single family dwelling which provides permanent or transient living facilities for one or more persons, which is occupied by tenants on a rental basis. This term shall include but not be limited to: hotels, motels, dormitories, apartments, duplex units, rooms rented out of the home of another, and single family dwellings, so long as they are rented."*

**Locations**

NFPA 720, Standard for the Installation of Carbon Monoxide Detection and Warning Equipment and The International Residential Code address the location of carbon monoxide detectors. Detectors should be installed outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate area of the bedrooms.

**Compliance Dates.**

RSA 153:10-a will become effective on January 1, 2010 for new construction. Administrative rules for this statute are being proposed for existing construction. In the rulemaking process, the Division will be recommending a two-year phase in process for implementation for existing construction.



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY  
John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner



**Division of Fire Safety**  
**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**  
J. William Degnan, State Fire Marshal

Office: NH Incident Planning & Operations Center, 110 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord, NH  
Mailing Address: 33 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03305  
603-223-4289, FAX 603-223-4294

**Informational Bulletin 2009-07- Addendum**  
**Carbon Monoxide Detection Devices in Dwellings**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this addendum is to address the possible installation and administrative requirements that will be associated with RSA 153:10-a.

**Explanation**

Guidance for the installation of carbon monoxide detectors is being taken from NFPA 720, 2009 edition and the International Residential Code, 2009 edition. The following guidelines are for reference only and have not been adopted as yet.

Are any dwelling /residential units exempt from the requirement?

*Units that have attached garages, loading docks or contain any fuel fired appliances, including solid fuel, must have CMD's installed. Units without any of these items may be exempted from the requirement.*

Where should the carbon monoxide detection devices be located?

*The location of CMD's shall be on every occupiable level, including basements. CMD's shall be located outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate area of the bedrooms.*

*In residential occupancies such as dormitories and like type occupancies this may mean that the detection devices will be in the common hallways. In some cases a performance based design approach may be appropriate.*

*If a fuel fired appliance, such as a fireplace or heater, is installed in a bedroom then a CMD shall be located in the bedroom as well.*

How should the CMD's be powered?

*In new construction or substantially rehabilitated buildings, the CMD's shall be hard wired to a branch circuit and shall have a battery as a secondary power source.*

*In existing buildings CMD's shall be plug in type devices, powered by the building ac current, and shall have a battery as a secondary power source.*



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY**  
John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner



***Division of Fire Safety***  
**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**  
J. William Degnan, State Fire Marshal

Office: NH Incident Planning & Operations Center, 110 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord, NH  
Mailing Address: 33 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03305  
603-223-4289, FAX 603-223-4294

**Informational Bulletin 2009-07- Addendum**  
**Carbon Monoxide Detection Devices in Dwellings**  
(continued)

*CMD's may be connected to, and powered by, a commercial fire alarm system within a building. CMD's connected to commercial fire alarm systems shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of NFPA 72 and NFPA 720.*

\*Do the CMD's have to be interconnected?

*In new construction or substantially rehabilitated buildings when two or more CMD's are installed within a dwelling unit, suite of rooms or similar area, they shall be interconnected.*

*CMD's installed in existing construction shall not be required to be interconnected. Interconnected hard wired devices are recommended.*

\*Can combination smoke/carbon monoxide devices be used?

*Combination devices are permitted provided that they meet the requirements of UL 217 and UL2034.*

*Interconnected and combination devices must be compatible with all of the other devices connected to that system/circuit.*

\*Please note: Some combination devices utilize ionization type smoke detection. If photo- electric type detection is required then an ionization combination detector may not be code compliant.