

Carbon monoxide alarms must be installed in most new residential construction as of October 1, 2008, and in most existing residential buildings by 2010

As of October 1, 2008, carbon monoxide alarms must be installed in most new "residential" buildings which have fuel burning appliances. The residential types include tourist rooming houses (cabins), bed and breakfast establishments, and any public building used for sleeping or lodging, such as hotels, motels, condominiums, apartment buildings, dormitories, fraternities, sororities, convents, seminaries, community-based residential facilities, and home shelters. Hospitals and nursing homes are not included.

The owners of existing buildings of those types will have until April 1, 2010 to install the carbon monoxide alarms.

The new regulations were issued as emergency rules by the state Department of Commerce, Safety and Buildings Division, as required by April 2008 legislation titled "[2007 Wisconsin Act 205](#)." See the [emergency rules](#) for technical aspects of alarm locations, etc.

For new tourist rooming houses (cabins under the scope of Wisconsin's Uniform Dwelling Code, Comm 21.095) as of October 1, 2008:

- Installation of carbon monoxide alarms where any type of fuel burning appliances are installed.
- The carbon monoxide alarms must be continuously powered by the building's electrical service with battery backups.

For new commercial buildings as defined above, as of October 1, 2008 (Comm 62.1200):

- Installation of carbon monoxide alarms where any type of fuel burning appliances are installed.
- The carbon monoxide alarms must be continuously powered by the building's electrical service with battery backups.

For commercial buildings as defined above existing on October 1, 2008, or receiving plan approval prior to October 1, 2008 (Act 205 itself, not the emergency rules, puts in place these requirements for existing tourist rooms):

- Installation of carbon monoxide alarms by April 1, 2010.
- No mandatory type of power sources for the carbon monoxide alarms, thereby allowing batteries, electrical outlet plug-ins, or wiring to the building's electrical service.
- Omission of carbon monoxide alarms is allowed provided there are no attached garages and all of the fuel burning appliances are of sealed combustion type either under warranty or annually inspected for carbon monoxide emissions.