

**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM REQUIREMENTS  
July, 2009**

Instructions: This document gives the legal requirements for installation of carbon monoxide alarms, states the allowed exceptions and provides a form that may be mailed to the State Fire Marshal's Office, 444 Cedar Street, Suite 145, St. Paul 55101 for multi-family dwelling owners meeting the exception requirements.

**LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

**[MN Statute 299F.51] Requirements for Carbon Monoxide Alarms**

Subdivision 1. **Generally.** Every single family dwelling and every dwelling unit in a multifamily dwelling must have an approved and operational carbon monoxide alarm installed within 10 feet of each room lawfully used for sleeping purposes.

Subdivision 2. **Owner's duties.** The owner of a multifamily dwelling unit which is required to be equipped with one or more approved carbon monoxide alarms must:

- (1) provide and install one approved and operational carbon monoxide alarm within ten feet of each room lawfully used for sleeping; and
- (2) replace any required carbon monoxide alarm that has been stolen, removed, found missing, or rendered inoperable during a prior occupancy of the dwelling unit and which has not been replaced by the prior occupant prior to the commencement of a new occupancy of a dwelling unit.

Subdivision 3. **Occupant's duties.** The occupant of each dwelling unit in a multifamily dwelling in which an approved and operational carbon monoxide alarm has been provided and installed by the owner must:

- (1) keep and maintain the device in good repair; and
- (2) replace any device that is stolen, removed, missing, or rendered inoperable during the occupancy of the dwelling unit.

Subdivision 4. **Battery removal prohibited.** No person shall remove batteries from, or in any way render inoperable, a required carbon monoxide alarm.

Subdivision 5. **Exceptions, certain multifamily dwellings and state-operated facilities.**

- (a) In lieu of requirements of subdivision 1, multifamily dwellings may have approved and operational carbon monoxide alarms installed between 15 and 25 feet of carbon monoxide producing central fixtures and equipment provided there is a centralized alarm system or other mechanism for responsible parties to hear the alarm at all times.
- (b) An owner of a multifamily dwelling that contains minimal or no sources of carbon monoxide may be exempted from the requirements of subdivision 1, provided that such owner certifies to the commissioner of public safety that such multifamily dwelling poses no foreseeable carbon monoxide risk to the health and safety to the dwelling units.
- (c) The requirements of this section do not apply to facilities owned or operated by the state of Minnesota.

**Effective Date.** This section is effective January 1, 2007, for all newly constructed single family and multifamily dwelling units for which building permits were issued on or after January 1, 2007; August 1, 2008 for all existing single family dwelling units; and August 1, 2009, for all multifamily dwelling units.

**CARBON MONOXIDE MEDICAL COMPLICATIONS AND SYMPTOMS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned. You can't smell or see carbon monoxide, but at high levels it can kill a person in minutes. Hundreds of people die accidentally every year from CO poisoning caused by malfunctioning or improperly used fuel-burning appliances and idling cars. Fetuses, infants, elderly people and people with anemia or with a history of heart or respiratory disease can be especially susceptible.

Moderate levels of CO can cause severe headaches, dizziness, mental confusion, nausea and fainting. People can die if moderate levels persist for a long time. Low levels of CO can cause shortness of breath, mild nausea, and mild headaches, and may have longer term effects on health. Since many of these symptoms are similar to those of the flu, food poisoning, or other illnesses, people may not recognize the cause as CO.

*Owner's Certification of Exemption  
For  
Installation of Carbon Monoxide Alarms*

MN Statute 299F.51 - Exception:

**Subdivision 5 (b) An owner of a multifamily dwelling that contains minimal or no sources of carbon monoxide may be exempted from the requirements of subdivision 1, provided that such owner certifies to the commissioner of public safety that such multifamily dwelling poses no foreseeable carbon monoxide risk to the health and safety to the dwelling units.**

If certifying exemption 5 (b) to the commissioner of Public Safety, please complete this form, retain one copy for your records and return one copy to the State Fire Marshal's Office, 444 Cedar Street, Suite 145, St. Paul 55101.

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**Certification of Carbon Monoxide Exemption Form**

I, the owner, \_\_\_\_\_  
Print name (and mailing address if different from multifamily dwelling address)

of a multifamily dwelling located at:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(city, state, zip code)

certify to the commissioner of public safety that I have:

1. Read Minnesota Statute 299F.51 and,
2. The facility contains minimal or no sources of carbon monoxide such that the multi-family dwelling contains no foreseeable carbon monoxide risks.

\*Please consider that the following are common sources of carbon monoxide that can be hazardous to human occupants.

- Gas kitchen range
- Gas, oil, wood, coal, kerosene, corn furnaces, heaters, boilers, stoves
- Gas, charcoal grills allowed within building
- Gas, oil water heaters
- Gas clothes dryers
- Gas ovens
- Gas fryers or other gas kitchen appliances
- Portable fuel or gas heaters
- Gas, oil, wood fireplaces
- Attached or tuck-under parking garage
- Other fuel burning appliances

Owner Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_