

## Building Inspection Services

Topic: Where Required

Category: Building Planning

Reference: IRC R315.1, R315.3

Subject: Carbon Monoxide Alarms

**Code Text:** *For new construction, an approved carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms in dwelling units within which fuel-fired appliances are installed and in dwelling units that have attached garages. Single station carbon monoxide alarms shall be listed as complying with UL 2034 and shall be installed in accordance with the IRC and the manufacturer's installation instructions.*

**Discussion and Commentary:** Carbon monoxide accumulates in the body over time relative to its concentration in the air. Accordingly, carbon monoxide detectors sound an alarm based on the concentration of carbon monoxide and the amount of time that certain levels are detected, simulating an accumulation of the toxic gas in the body. High levels of carbon monoxide will trigger an alarm within a short period of time, while lower levels must be present over a longer period of time for the alarm to sound.

