

## Why Do I Have To Do This?

Carbon monoxide (CO), known as the *Invisible Killer*, is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas that results from incomplete burning of fuels such as natural gas, propane, oil, wood, coal, and gasoline. Each year many people die from accidental CO poisoning and thousands more are injured. This law was passed to protect all of us from the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning.

## How Can I Tell if a CO Alarm Is Approved?

CO alarms are approved by an independent testing company such as Underwriters' Laboratories (UL), Underwriter's Laboratory of Canada (ULC), or International Approval Service/Canadian Standards Association (IAS/CSA). Be sure to look for the approval label when buying CO alarms. Most of the CO alarms currently sold in the Commonwealth meet these standards but it is a good idea to check and make sure they meet the standard before you purchase the alarms.

## How Do I Meet the Requirements of the Law?

If you install CO alarms on every habitable level by March 31, 2006 and keep them in good working order you don't have to do anything else to be in compliance with the law. When you sell your home, you must have an inspection and certificate from the local fire department before the sale is final. Contact your local fire department directly – they will know what to do to assist you.

## How Do I Know if I Have CO Poisoning?

The first symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to the flu (but without the fever). They include:

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Dizziness

If you think you have symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning or your CO alarm is sounding, contact your fire department and leave the building immediately.

For more information about the requirements of the law contact your local fire department or visit the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services website at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs).

# Consumer's Guide

to Massachusetts  
Requirements for

# Carbon Monoxide Alarms



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