



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

California Codes, as adopted by the County of Santa Cruz require smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms installed in all new one and two family dwellings and multi-unit residential dwellings. In addition, existing residential buildings shall have smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms in accordance with the following code sections:

### All Dwelling Units:

#### Smoke Alarms:

**2016 CRC Section R314.1** Smoke alarms shall be listed in accordance with UL 217. Systems and components shall be California State Fire Marshal listed and approved.

**R314.2.1 New construction.** Smoke alarms shall be provided in dwelling units.

**R314.2.2 Alterations, repairs and additions.** Where alterations, repairs or additions requiring a permit occur the individual dwelling unit shall be equipped with smoke alarms located as required for new dwellings.

**R314.3 Location.** Smoke alarms shall be installed in the following locations:

1. In each sleeping room.
2. Outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.
3. On each additional story of the dwelling, including basements and habitable attics but not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics. In dwellings or dwelling units with split levels and without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level provided that the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level.
4. Smoke alarms shall be installed not less than 3 feet horizontally from the door or opening of a bathroom that contains a bathtub or shower unless this would prevent placement of a smoke alarm required by Section R314.3.

**R314.6 Power source.** Smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring provided that such wiring is served from a commercial source and shall be equipped with a battery backup. Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than as required for overcurrent protection.

**Exceptions:** Smoke alarms are permitted to be solely battery operated in existing areas of buildings undergoing alterations or repairs that do not result in the removal of interior walls or ceiling finishes

exposing the structure, unless there is an attic, crawl space or basement available which could provide access for building wiring without the removal of interior finishes.

Smoke alarms are permitted to be solely battery operated in existing areas of buildings where no construction is taking place.

**After January 1, 2014:** In accordance with State Senate Bill 1394, all new battery operated smoke detectors will have a battery with a ten year life. The smoke detector shall display the date of manufacture on the device, and shall provide a place on the device where the date of installation can be written.

**Battery operated smoke alarms** which otherwise met the standards adopted pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13114 for smoke alarms at the time of installation, satisfies the requirements of this section.

### **Carbon Monoxide Alarms:**

**2016 CRC Section R315.1.1.** Carbon monoxide alarms shall be listed in accordance with UL 2034. Systems and components shall be California State Fire Marshal listed and approved.

**Section R315.2.1.** For existing buildings and new construction, carbon monoxide alarms shall be provided in dwelling units where either or both of the following conditions exist.

1. The dwelling unit contains a fuel-fired appliance or fireplace.
2. The dwelling unit has an attached garage with an opening that communicates with the dwelling unit.

**R315.5 Power source.** Carbon monoxide alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring where such wiring is served from a commercial source and, where primary power is interrupted, shall receive power from a battery. Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than those required for overcurrent protection.

**Exceptions:** carbon monoxide alarm is permitted to be solely battery operated where repairs or alterations do not result in the removal of wall and ceiling finishes or there is no access by means of attic, basement or crawl space.

Carbon monoxide alarms shall be permitted to be battery-powered or plug-in with a battery backup in existing buildings provided no construction is taking place.

**R314.1.1 Listing:** Combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms shall be listed in accordance with UL 217 and UL 2034. Systems and components shall be California State Fire Marshal listed and approved.

**Note:** It is the responsibility of the person scheduling the final inspection to provide access to the inspector for verification of all alarms. The final inspection will not occur without access to the alarms.

**Note:** For the referenced code information, go to <http://www.bsc.ca.gov/Codes.aspx> and/or <http://www.sccoplanning.com/PlanningHome/BuildingSafety/BuildingCodes.aspx>