



# CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

## IRC Section R315

**BB-21**  
RESIDENTIAL  
BULLETIN

**Community Development Department**  
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### R315.1 General.

Carbon monoxide alarms shall comply with Section R315.

#### R315.1.1 Listings.

Carbon monoxide alarms shall be listed in accordance with UL 2034. Combination carbon monoxide and smoke alarms shall be listed in accordance with UL 2034 and UL 217.

### R315.2 Where required.

Carbon monoxide alarms shall be provided in accordance with Sections R315.2.1 and R315.2.2.

**R315.2.1 New construction.** 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 and on each level of the dwelling in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendation.

#### R315.2.2 Alterations, repairs and additions.

Existing dwellings shall be equipped with carbon monoxide alarms in accordance with Section R315.2.1. An inspection will occur where alterations, repairs, or additions requiring a permit occur, or where one or more sleeping rooms are added or created.

#### Exceptions:

1. Work involving only the exterior surfaces of dwellings, such as the replacement of roofing or siding, or the addition or replacement of windows or doors, or the addition of a porch or deck, is exempt from the requirements of this section.
2. Installation, alteration or repairs of nonfuel burning plumbing or mechanical systems or electrical systems are exempt from the inspection requirements of this section.
3. Owner-occupied single-family residences legally occupied before July 26, 2009. RCW 19.27.530(2)(b).

### R315.3 Location.

Carbon monoxide alarms in dwelling units shall be installed outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms on each level of the dwelling and in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations. Where a fuel-burning appliance is located within a bedroom or its attached bathroom, a carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed within the bedroom.

### R315.4 Combination alarms.

Combination carbon monoxide and smoke alarms shall be permitted to be used in lieu of carbon monoxide alarms.

### 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:

1. Carbon monoxide alarms shall be permitted to be battery operated where installed in buildings without commercial power.
2. Carbon monoxide alarms installed in accordance with Section R315.2.2 shall be permitted to be battery powered.

**Note: (R315.6 Carbon monoxide detection systems - Not listed in this Bulletin)**