



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
1 Franey Road Somerville, Massachusetts 02144
TEL: (617) 623-1700 Ext#8400
FAX: (617) 666-4597

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 148 Sec. 26F and 26F1/2

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detector Requirements for 1&2 Family Dwellings

Smoke Detectors:

- All smoke detectors shall be mounted on the ceiling per manufacturer recommendations.
- One smoke detector for every 1200 sq. ft. of living space
- A minimum of one smoke detector required on every habitable level and one detector in the basement within 5 ft. of all stairways.
- One smoke detector outside of each separate sleeping area. (Also inside bedroom on new construction or renovation).
- If a bedroom is located off of a kitchen, the smoke detector shall be located inside the bedroom.
- One smoke detector on the ceiling of **all** stairways on **all** floor levels.
- If a smoke detector must be located within 20 ft. of a kitchen or bathroom the smoke detector must be a photoelectric detector.
- If a smoke detector is located over 20 ft. from a kitchen or bathroom it must be dual type photoelectric/ionization or separate detectors.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors:

- All carbon monoxide detectors shall be mounted per manufacturer recommendations.
- A minimum of one CO detector on every level including the basement.
- The CO detector must be located within 10 ft. of every bedroom.
- Combination smoke/carbon monoxide detectors are acceptable.
- If a combination detector is used it must be the speaking type.
- Plug in carbon monoxide devices may be used if smoke detectors are hard wired.

***The Fire Prevention Bureau may be contacted for any assistance needed.**



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26F Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detector Compliance Policy

When selling a home you are required to have working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in accordance with Massachusetts General Law 148, Sections 26F and 26 1/2F. The following defines how to schedule a 26F Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detector inspection in Somerville.

- File an application at the Fire Prevention Bureau, 1 Franey Rd. Somerville. Office hours are Monday through Friday 08:00-10:00 AM and 3:00-4:00 PM
- Applications are available online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/fireprevention> but must be submitted in person with payment (cannot be done electronically at this time).
- The fees for the certification inspection must be received at time of requesting inspection. **No cash or credit cards are accepted.** Please make check or money order made out to "City of Somerville". See website above for fee listing.
- A date and time for inspection will be assigned when the application is filed in person. We cannot schedule appointments over the phone. **The request for inspection must be at least two weeks prior to the closing date.** Appointments are scheduled on a first come first served basis.
- Inspection times are assigned in blocks of time either 10:15-11:30 AM or 1:00-2:00 PM
- Prior to the inspection, the alarm system should be checked by the owner, agent or an electrician for proper operations and placement/location of detectors. Specific information is available in the link above, under Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detector Requirements located under the regulations tab.

Inspection Day

- Please arrive at the location at least five minutes prior to designate time.
- The inspector will wait ten minutes past the scheduled block of time. The application will be returned as a failed inspection.
- The inspection will automatically fail if the devices are not mounted or operating. The Fire inspector is not there to install batteries or detectors or to direct someone else to perform these actions.
- Have keys and access to all areas of the building. If the inspector cannot get into an apartment or area, the inspection fails.
- Certificates are valid for sixty days from the issue date.