

CITY OF MILPITAS

Office of Building Safety
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SMOKE ALARM, CARBON MONOXIDE AND SPARK ARRESTER CERTIFICATE

In single family, multi-family residences (including townhomes, condominiums and apartments) and Hotels/Motels, installation of smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, and spark arresters is required prior to the final inspection (CRC/CBC) as follows:

Smoke Alarms listed in accordance with UL 217, listed and approved by the California State Fire Marshal and tested & maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions shall be installed in existing or new dwellings as follows: **in each sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms and on each story of the dwelling.** 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. In the hallway and in the room open to the hallway in dwelling units where the ceiling height of a room open to a hallway serving bedrooms exceeds that of the hallway by 24-inches or more. Alarms that no longer function shall be replaced. New smoke alarms that are solely battery powered must have a non-replaceable and non-removable battery capable of powering the smoke alarm for at least 10 years. Fire alarm systems shall be permitted in lieu of smoke alarms if they comply with the provisions of NFPA 72. The installation of smoke alarms and smoke detectors shall also comply with the following requirements:

1. Smoke alarms shall not be located where ambient conditions, including humidity and temperature, are outside the limits specified by the manufacturer's published instructions.
2. Smoke alarms shall not be located within unfinished attics or garages or in other spaces where temperatures can fall below 40°F or exceed 100°F.
3. Where the mounting surface could become considerably warmer or cooler than the room, such as a poorly insulated ceiling below an unfinished attic or an exterior wall, alarms shall be mounted on an inside wall.
4. Smoke alarms shall be installed a minimum of 20 feet horizontal distance from a permanently installed cooking appliance, except ionization smoke alarms with an alarm silencing switch or Photoelectric smoke alarms shall be permitted to be installed 10 feet or greater from a permanently installed cooking appliance and photoelectric smoke alarms shall be permitted to be installed greater than 6 feet from a permanently installed cooking appliance where the kitchen or cooking area and adjacent spaces have no clear interior partitions and the 10 foot distances would prohibit the placement of a required smoke alarm or smoke detector. Smoke alarms listed for use in close proximity to a permanently installed cooking appliance can be installed in accordance with their listing.
5. Smoke alarms shall be installed not less than a 3-foot horizontal distance 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 the code.
6. Smoke alarms shall not be installed within a 36-inch horizontal path from the supply registers of a forced air heating or cooling system and shall be installed outside of the direct airflow from those registers.
7. Smoke alarms shall not be installed within a 36-inch horizontal path from the tip of the blade of a ceiling-suspended (paddle) fan.
8. Where stairs lead to other occupied levels, alarm shall be located so that smoke rising in the stairway cannot be prevented from reaching the alarm by an intervening door or obstruction.
9. For stairways leading up from a basement, alarms shall be located on the basement ceiling near the entry to the stairs.
10. For tray-shaped ceilings (coffered ceilings), alarms shall be installed on the highest portion of the ceiling or on the sloped portion of the ceiling within 12" vertically down from the highest point.
11. Smoke alarms installed in rooms with joists or beams shall comply with the requirements of NFPA 72.
12. Heat alarms and detectors installed in rooms with joists or beams shall comply with NFPA 72.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms listed in accordance with UL 2034, or combination carbon and smoke alarm listed in accordance with UL217 and UL2034, listed and approved by the California State Fire Marshal and installed and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions shall be installed in existing or new dwellings having a fuel-fired appliance, fireplace or an attached garage with an opening communicating with the dwelling as follows: **outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedroom(s), on every occupiable level of a dwelling unit, and inside a bedroom if a fuel-burning appliance is located within the bedroom or its attached bathroom.**

Power supply: Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring and shall be equipped with a battery back-up. Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than as required for overcurrent protection. Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are permitted to be solely battery operated (carbon monoxide alarms can also be plug-in with battery back-up) in existing buildings where no construction is taking place; 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 or crawl space available which could provide access for building wiring without the removal of interior finishes; where repairs or alterations are limited to 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; or when work is limited to the installation, alteration or repairs of plumbing or mechanical systems or the installation, alteration or repair of electrical systems which do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure.

Interconnection: Where more than one smoke or carbon monoxide alarm is required to be installed within an individual dwelling or sleeping unit, the alarms shall be interconnected in such a manner that the activation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the individual unit, except interconnection is not required in buildings that are not undergoing alterations, repairs or construction of any kind; where alterations or repairs do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure unless there is an attic or crawl space available which could provide access for interconnection without the removal of interior finishes; where repairs or alterations are limited to 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; or when work is limited to the installation, alteration or repairs of plumbing, mechanical or electrical systems which do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure.

Spark arresters: All chimneys attached to any appliance or fireplace that burns solid fuel shall be equipped with an approved spark arrestor per CRC R1003.9.2 or CBC 2113.9.2. Where installed on a masonry chimney the arrestor shall: have a net free area not less than four times the net free area of the of the outlet of the chimney flue it serves; arrestor screen shall have heat and corrosion resistance equivalent to 12 gage wire, 19 gage galvanized steel or 24 gage stainless steel; openings shall not permit the passage of spheres having a diameter greater than 1/2 inch nor block the passage of spheres having a diameter less than 3/8 inch; and the arrestor shall be located with access for cleaning and the screen or chimney cap shall be removable to allow for cleaning of the chimney flue.

If the building inspector cannot physically inspect all alarms and/or spark arrestors, this Certificate of Compliance may be signed by the property owner and given to the building inspector at final inspection.

I/We, the owner(s) of this property, certify under penalty of perjury:

*** CERTIFICATION ***

I understand the above requirements and certify that I now have smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms and spark arrestors installed as required above.

OWNERS NAME (please print): _____

PROJECT ADDRESS: _____

OWNERS SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____ PERMIT NO. _____