



Proposed Code Change

State Form 41186R

RETURN TO:
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
CODE SERVICES SECTION
302 W. Washington Street Room W246
Indianapolis, IN 46204

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Received 5/12/09
Code 46-09

INSTRUCTIONS:

Only TYPED copy accepted.

(KEY – Dashed line through material to be deleted, underline material to be added)

Use second sheet for any material requiring more space.

Code Title International Residential Code		Edition 2009
Section number and title SECTION R315 CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS		Page 63
Proponent Calvin Bolt Inspections and Testing	Title Owner	
Address 1310 Oriole Drive Warsaw, IN 46580		Phone 574-269-3507
PROPOSED CODE CHANGE (Check One)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Change to read as follows <input type="checkbox"/> Add to read as follows <input type="checkbox"/> Delete and substitute as follows <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Delete without substitution		
REASON AND FISCAL IMPACT		
<p>The CO alarms at Wal-Mart and Lowe's for example, tend to give the public a misleading sense of security. Yes, in an extreme CO event they may save lives. At 70 ppm, the unit must sound between 1 hour and 4 hours. If the level falls to 69 ppm, then the time frame starts all over. There are warnings on the package for certain people as well. The test button lets you know that the electrical connection works, NOT that the sensor works. Also, any plug in type model won't do a whole lot of good if the CO event occurs at night. CO is lighter than air, so it would build from the ceiling down to your 24" high bed, before it gets to the 16" high receptacle. These alarms don't do anything for low levels of CO such as between 10 and 30 ppm, which can have chronic effects on people. The manufacturers recommend 1 in each bedroom and 1 on each level, so it would take 5+/- per home.</p> <p>The CPSC states, "Each year, CO poisoning from heating systems, water heaters, and ranges and ovens kills about 80 people in the United States. Many of these tragedies could be prevented by having a professional check these appliances annually for proper operation and CO leaks". This is also my view as well.</p> <p>In my conversations with a CO expert from NJ who is a contributing writer to Indoor Environmental Connections, he states that the EPA numbers are commingled when trying to separate non-suicidal residential deaths, from vehicular deaths-both moving and stationary, both indoors and out. He states that about 200 deaths are from vehicles, and about 200 are from residential. Simply NOT warming up your vehicle in the garage, even with the overhead door open, would eliminate the vehicular residential part, of CO potential deaths.</p> <p>The radon industry and EPA state that radon lung cancer causes 100 times more deaths than CO each year. Radon lung cancer kills an estimated 21,000 people per year. (Apparently they are using a CO number of 200 deaths). Radon deaths don't get the media coverage like CO gets. It's more dramatic and publicized taking a CO victim out of a house on a stretcher in the winter, than the radon lung cancer victim being loaded into the hearse out the back door of the hospital or an extended care facility in the summer. Another difference is that CO is acute, whereas radon is chronic, so it is more shocking, so to speak, when someone dies.</p> <p>I spoke with the president of a company in MO that manufactures low level CO "health" monitors. These will issue alarm warnings down to 10 ppm for CO. They themselves do not sell them directly, but organizations that do, include, but are not limited to, the American Lung Association. 2 years ago these were priced at \$175.00 plus tax and shipping, so if 5 were needed in a home, the cost would get close to \$1000.00.</p> <p>I wouldn't recommend spending the money to use the insufficient box store brands of CO detectors (or having a code for them), nor would I force a code for a homeowner to spend \$1000.00 on the worthy units. A 1-2 hour annual inspection that a homeowner should take responsibility for, would reduce the 80-200 annual residential deaths from non-suicidal, non-vehicular CO poisoning.</p>		

--

REVIEW RECOMMENDATION

- | |
|--------------------|
| Approve |
| Disapprove |
| Approve as amended |
| Further Study |