



Protecting Students, Staff and Visitors from Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless and poisonous gas that's often referred to as the "silent killer." Due to their size, children are especially vulnerable to elevated levels of CO, so poisoning can occur more quickly in children.

CO Sources in Schools

Sources include but aren't limited to:

- fuel-fired heating systems, such as boilers, heating or ventilating units, and make-up air units, including rooftop or ground-mounted units;
- emergency or standby electric generators within the building;
- fuel-fired kitchen equipment such as ranges, ovens, steamers, dishwashers, make-up air units and serving hoods;
- fuel-fired domestic hot water heaters;
- lab or shop equipment such as gas outlets (science rooms), torches (welding shops or maintenance areas), gas-fired kilns (art rooms), and stationary or portable engines (auto shops);
- maintenance and storage areas with fuel-fired equipment; and
- garages, even if the space is used for storage of materials and equipment.

Amendment to New York State's Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (June 2015)

- It added provisions requiring the installation of CO detection in all new and existing commercial buildings, including school facilities that have appliances, devices or systems that may emit CO or in an attached garage.
- The transition period for existing commercial buildings runs from *June 27, 2015 to June 27, 2016*. Access the Carbon Monoxide Detection Transition Period Certification form here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MPNWKBG>

CO Detection and Alarms Required in School Buildings in Existing and New Regulations

- *As part of existing regulations*, CO detection and alarms are required in school buildings that contain sleeping areas in accordance with the provisions of Section 610 of the Fire Code of New York State.
- *Under the new regulations for commercial buildings*, CO detection and alarms are required in all occupiable buildings that have appliances, devices or systems that may emit CO, or in an attached garage. "Occupiable" refers to school buildings, administrative buildings, bus maintenance facilities, concession stands, field houses, etc.
- Regulations for commercial buildings are somewhat different than those for school buildings with sleeping areas. If a school building has a sleeping area, the building must comply with applicable provisions of both sets of requirements.
- Alarm or detector locations that comply with the requirements of both rules do not need to be duplicated.

More Information and Assistance

Visit the New York State Education Department (NYSED) online:

[http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/Carbon Monoxide/CarbonMonoxideDetectioninSchoolDistrictBuildings.html](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/Carbon%20Monoxide/CarbonMonoxideDetectioninSchoolDistrictBuildings.html)

Contact the NYSED's Office of Facilities Planning at (518) 474-3906 for additional assistance.