Construction Codes Advisory

Promoting construction of safe, healthy, habitable buildings

Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Alarms – Alternative Family Care Homes, Family Child Care Homes and Caregiver Homes Approved for Children in the Care of the Ministry of Social Services

Information at a Glance

On May 5, 2026, Saskatchewan introduced Henry's Law, a regulatory amendment to strengthen requirements for carbon monoxide (CO) detection. Owners of all new and existing *buildings* are required to comply by November 1, 2026, when *The Building Code (Henry Losco) Amendment Regulations, 2026* (Henry's Law) will come into force. This advisory provides information for owners and tenants of Alternative Family Care Homes, Family Child Care Homes and Caregiver Homes Approved for Children in the Care of the Ministry of Social Services.

Henry's Law expands the locations where CO alarms are required in *buildings.* This change augments regulatory amendments made effective July 1, 2022, that made the installation of CO and *smoke alarms* retroactive in all existing *buildings* in Saskatchewan.

The installation of CO and *smoke alarms* is the most effective way to accomplish early warning protection against the effects of CO poisoning, smoke and fire.

Family Child Care Homes and Caregiver Homes Approved for Children in the Care of the Ministry of Social Services

All homes in Saskatchewan, including Family Child Care Homes and caregiver homes approved by Child and Family Programs for the purpose of caring for children in the care of the Ministry of Social Services, are subject to these requirements. To clarify, this means that the *owner* of each *building*, or the *owner* of each *suite* within a building, is responsible for ensuring the required CO and *smoke alarms* are installed, maintained and tested in accordance with these requirements.

Compliance with *The Construction Codes Act*, *The Building Code Regulations* and the National Building Code (NBC) 2020) is addressed in this advisory. Words in italic, other than Act and regulation titles are defined in the NBC 2020.

Placement

CO alarms shall be installed:

- Inside each sleeping room; **OR**
- Outside each sleeping room within five metres (16 feet) of each sleeping room door; **AND**
- Inside each *service room* (that is not in a *suite*) where a fuel-burning *appliance* is installed; **AND**
- Inside each room that contains a solid-fuel-burning *appliance*.

Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Alarms – Alternative Family Care Homes, Family Child Care Homes and Caregiver Homes Approved for Children in the Care of the Ministry of Social Services

S*moke alarms* shall be installed:

- On each floor level including the level with sleeping rooms, with the smoke alarm located between the sleeping rooms and the remainder of the floor; **AND**
- Inside each sleeping room.

Permitted Devices

CO alarms:

- Must conform to CAN/CSA-6.19 "Residential Carbon Monoxide Alarming Devices"
- May be hardwired with a battery backup
- May be plugged in with a battery backup
- May be battery only if equipped with a 10-year tamper-resistant battery

Smoke alarms:

- Must conform to CAN/ULC-S531 "Smoke Alarms"
- May be hardwired with a battery backup
- May be battery only if equipped with a 10-year tamper-resistant battery

In *buildings* complying with the previous National Building Code of Canada requirements for hard-wired CO or *smoke alarms*, those devices must be maintained. The placement of battery-operated devices is only permitted:

- In *buildings* and in locations required under regulatory amendments in 2022 that made their installation retroactive
- Under Henry's Law, which expands placement to all *suites* and units in every residential building with multiple *suites*

All alarms must be fastened at a height recommended by the manufacturer, or in the absence of the manufacturer's recommendations, installed on or near the ceiling. All alarms should be tested regularly.

Alternative Family Care Homes

The term Alternative Family Care Home (AFCH) encompasses multiple types of homes with a total of 10 or fewer beds under various Government of Saskatchewan programs. AFCHs most often include homes that are covered under at least one of the following acts:

- *The Mental Health Services Act*
- *The Personal Care Homes Act*
- *The Regional Health Services Act*
- *The Residential Services Act*
- *The Youth Justice Administration Act*
- *The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act*
- Any other home or other building, like those mentioned in the above acts, where care is provided

Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Alarms – Alternative Family Care Homes, Family Child Care Homes and Caregiver Homes Approved for Children in the Care of the Ministry of Social Services

Existing Alternative Family Care Homes

AFCHs in operation before July 1, 2022, are exempt from Subsection 4(3) of *The Building Code Regulations* (the BC Regulations). The exemption is provided because either an AFCH is sprinklered or Additional Fire Safety Measures are in place for an AFCH that is not sprinklered. Additional fire safety measures are identified in the "Alternative Family Care Homes Building and Fire Safety Guide" and are assessed either by the fire inspector/building official and addressed through the licensing/certification process.

New Alternative Family Care Homes

A building that is newly constructed as an AFCH, undergoes a change of use to become an AFCH, or undergoes a change of occupancy to become an AFCH will need to be provided with the CO alarms and *smoke alarms* meeting the BC Regulations amendment to the National Building Code of Canada (NBC) 2020 Article 3.1.2.5. specific to AFCH. This includes:

- Interconnected smoke alarms in accordance with either Article 9.10.19. or Article 3.2.4.20.
- Carbon monoxide alarms in accordance with Article 9.32.3.9. or Article 6.9.3.1

Definitions

Appliance means a device to convert fuel into energy and includes all components, controls, wiring and piping required to be part of the device by the applicable standard referred to in the NBC.

Building and Technical Standards
1430 - 1855 Victoria Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3T2
306-787-4113 Phone
btstandards@gov.sk.ca
www.saskatchewan.ca/btstandards

Construction Codes Advisory
Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Alarm – AFCHs, Family Child Care Homes and Caregiver Homes Approved for Children in the Care of the Ministry of Social Servies
Original December 2021
Revised July 2026
Original approved and signed by:
Chief Codes Administrator

This guide is published by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Government Relations for purposes of providing information to users on the topic contained herein. In case of conflict between *The Construction Codes Act* (the CC Act), *The Building Code Regulations* (the BC Regulations) and the NBC 2020 and this Advisory, provisions of the CC Act, the BC Regulations and the NBC 2020 apply.