



No: 2008 ORSC Section R326 (2011 ORSC Section R315)
Carbon Monoxide Alarms/Detectors

Code Section: ORSC Section R326 (R315 in the 2011 ORSC)

Code Edition: 2008 (and 2011) ORSC

Date Reissued: May 26, 2011

Subject: Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms/detectors in existing structures.

Question: When replacing a fuel-fired appliance with another fuel-fired appliance in an existing structure, are CO alarms/detectors required?

Answer: No.

Question: When replacing an electric appliance with a fuel-fired appliance is a CO alarm/detector required?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Who's responsible for installing the CO alarm/detector?

Answer: The person to whom the permit is issued is responsible for ensuring the CO alarm/detector is installed.

Analysis: The replacement of a carbon monoxide source with another carbon monoxide source is not adding a new source, therefore the installation of CO alarms/detectors would not be required even though a mechanical permit may be required. A few of the most common examples of a source for source replacement are; replacing an oil furnace with a gas furnace, inserting a pellet stove into a solid fuel-burning fireplace or installing a fuel-gas decorative appliance into a solid fuel-burning fireplace, or replacing a 78% gas furnace with a 90%+ gas furnace. Although these examples would require a mechanical permit, they would not mandate the installation of a CO alarm/detector. If the installation was a change over from electric to gas you would be adding a new source of carbon monoxide that

In accordance with OAR 918-008-0110, the information contained in this statewide code interpretation is legally binding on any party involved in activities regulated by applicable Oregon law, applicable Oregon regulations or the state building code. If the information contained in this statewide code interpretation is cited as a basis for a civil infraction, a representative of the jurisdiction must cite the interpretation number found in this document.



wasn't there before, therefore a CO alarm/detector would be required. When adding a CO alarm/detector, whether triggered by a structural permit or when a new source is added, the person to whom the permit is issued would be responsible for ensuring that a CO alarm/detector(s) is installed per Section R326 (R315). The final approval of the permit would include verification that a CO alarm/detector was installed.

Contact: Richard S. Rogers, Structural Program Chief
Richard.Rogers@state.or.us
(503) 378-4472
or
Michael D. Ewert, Residential and Mechanical Programs
Mike.D.Ewert@state.or.us
(503) 373-7529