

Manitoba



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November 2011

Dear Director/Chairperson:

Further to the letter dated January 28, 2011 from Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care regarding carbon monoxide (CO) detectors, please be advised that a new Manitoba Fire Code Regulation will come into force on December 1, 2011.

The new Manitoba Fire Code Regulation requires carbon monoxide (CO) detection and warning equipment in public buildings, including child care centres and schools, where there is a risk of carbon monoxide exposure in the building or in part of the building (see the regulation in the attached document). Buildings with fuel burning appliances, such as a natural gas or propane furnace, hot water tank or stove clearly have a risk of CO exposure. There are other conditions that can create a risk of CO exposure, such as the location of the building's exterior air intake vent. If you do not have any fuel burning appliances, contact your local fire authority to determine if CO alarms are required for your particular building.

Please be advised that child care centres are required to be in compliance by December 1, 2011. Local fire authorities will verify compliance during their annual inspections. CO alarms must meet the CAN/CSA Standard and must be wall-mounted. Your local fire authority can advise whether the CO alarms may be battery-operated units or if hard-wired units are required in your building. Plug-in CO alarms do not satisfy this code requirement but can be used in addition to the required wall-mounted units.

If your centre is located in a rented or shared building, you are encouraged to contact your landlord or building personnel immediately. CO detection and warning systems may already be present and/or you may be able to work cooperatively to install the appropriate equipment to meet this requirement.

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In all cases, it is important to follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation. Please also be aware that each CO alarm unit has an expiry date noted on the packaging. The locations of your CO alarms and the expiry dates should be documented in the *Facility Overview* of your enhanced safety plan to make sure the units are replaced as required. You must also follow the manufacturer's instructions for testing, inspection and maintenance. These requirements should be documented in the *Controlling Fire Hazards and Inspection and Maintenance of Fire Safety Equipment* section of your enhanced safety plan.

Please see the enclosed document: *Safety Bulletin #1 CO Detector/Alarms for Homes and Small Buildings*. For additional information, visit the website for the Manitoba Office of the Fire Commissioner (www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca). If you have questions, you may contact the Office of the Fire Commissioner at (204) 945-3322 or toll free at 1-800-282-8069.

A translated version of this letter will be sent to centres that request their correspondence in French as soon as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter and for your continued commitment to the health, safety and well-being of children, families and staff at your centre.

Sincerely,



Margaret Ferniuk
Director
Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care

Sincerely,



David Schafer
A/Fire Commissioner
Office of the Fire Commissioner

Enclosures

cc: Child Care Coordinators

CHANGES TO THE MANITOBA FIRE CODE EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2011

2(5) The following is added after Article 2.1.3.8.:

2.1.3.9. Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- 1) Carbon monoxide detection and warning equipment shall be installed in a *building* or a part of a *building* that is required to be inspected under section 1 of the *Fire Safety Inspections Regulation*, Manitoba Regulation 73/2007, if a risk of carbon monoxide exposure exists in the *building* or part of the *building*.
- 2) Carbon monoxide detection and warning equipment that is required to be installed under Sentence (1) shall be installed in conformance with NFPA 720-2009 “Standard for the Installation of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detection and Warning Equipment.”
- 3) A carbon monoxide alarm that is required to be installed under this Article may be battery operated.
- 4) All installations of carbon monoxide detection and warning equipment must be acceptable to the *authority having jurisdiction*.