

International Residential Code (IRC) Smoke Alarm and Carbon Monoxide Requirements

IRC Requirements (2012) SMOKE ALARMS

IRC R314

All smoke alarms shall be listed in accordance with UL217 and installed in accordance with the provisions of this code and the household fire warning equipment provisions of NFPA 72.

New Houses

Alarms are required and must be connected to the main electrical system with battery backup.

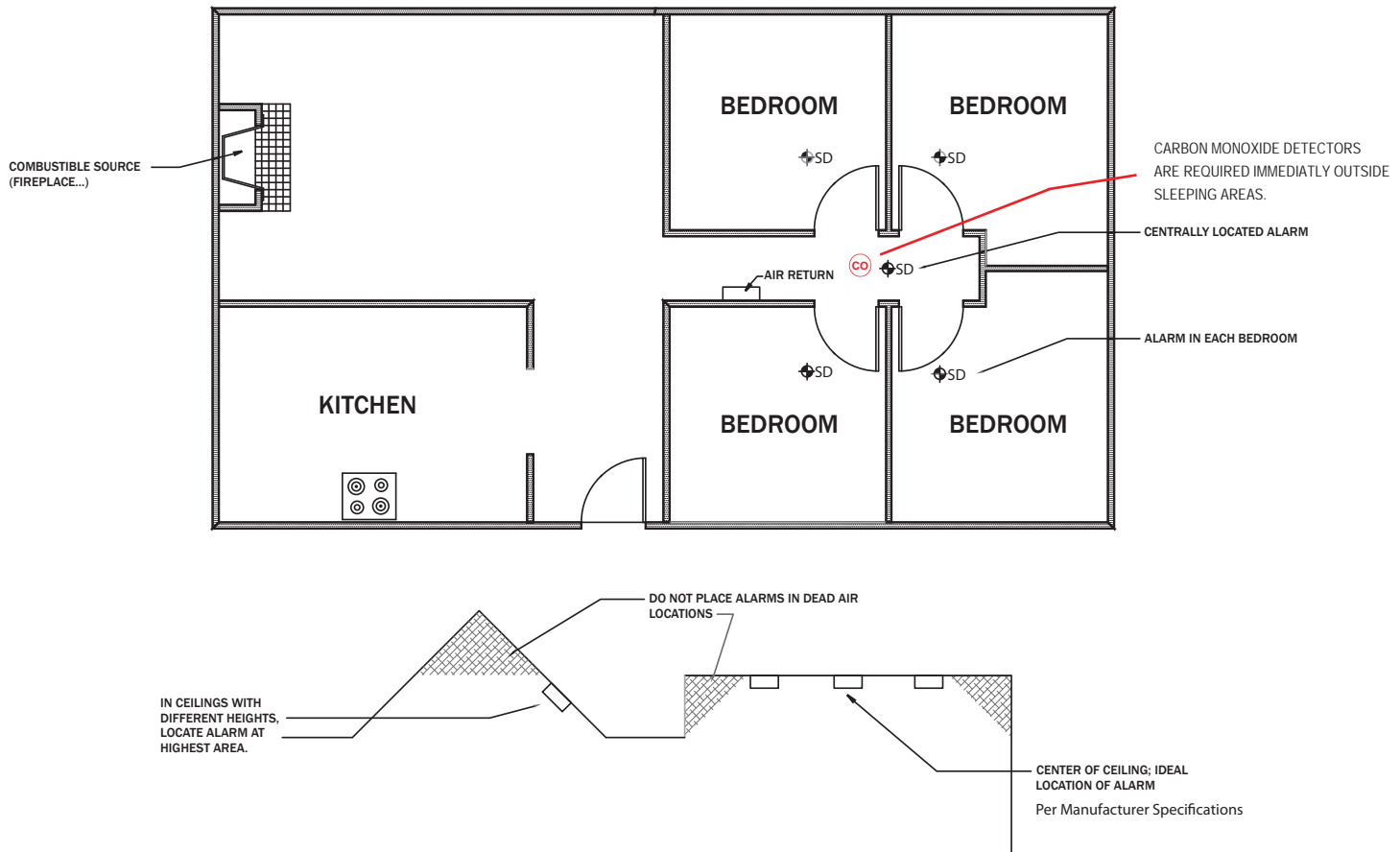
Existing Houses (IRC R314.3.1)

Alarms are required for any addition or repair work requiring a building permit, except exterior surface work such as re-roofing. Alarms must be interconnected and

hardwired. Exception: Alarms will not be required to be interconnected and hard wired where the permit work does not require the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes unless there is an attic, crawlspace, or basement available where access is provided.

Required Locations

- Each sleeping room and outside each sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms
- Every floor level including basements, but not including crawl space and uninhabitable attics.
- In split level floor plans, at the upper level, provided there is not intervening door between adjacent levels and the lower level is less than a full story below the upper level.



IRC REQUIREMENTS (2012) CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

IRC R315

For new construction, an approved carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms in dwelling units within which fuel-fired appliances are installed and in dwelling units that have attached garages.