

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

(Smoke Detector Inspection)

Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors must be in the proper locations and operational and your house must be properly numbered in order to receive your certificate. The following gives a description of where your detectors need to be located and a description of the requirements of house numbering in the City of Methuen. Please read this prior to your inspection to avoid delay in receiving your certificate.

- ◆ Certificate expires sixty (60) days from date of issue.
- ◆ **All smoke detectors shall be located on the ceiling.**
- ◆ One smoke detector shall be installed to protect each separate sleeping area. Bedrooms separated by kitchens or living rooms shall be considered as separate sleeping areas. Smoke detectors installed to protect a sleeping area shall be located outside the bedroom where possible, but in the immediate vicinity of the sleeping area. When a bedroom is directly off a kitchen or cooking area, the smoke detector shall be installed **INSIDE** the bedroom.
- ◆ Smoke detectors installed to detect a fire in the basement shall be located in close proximity to the stairwell to the floor above (floor joist).
- ◆ A detector shall be located on the ceiling on the upper level of a stairwell and a detector shall also be located on the ceiling of the lower level - in close proximity to the stairwell. The only exception to this rule is the basement stairwell where there only needs to be one at the bottom of the stairs and not one at the top.
- ◆ Attics serviced by a stairway shall have a detector installed high on a rafter. This is not required in attics with trap doors.
- ◆ In a two-family house, the installation is the same as above with the exception of an uncommon stairwell (when each tenant has their own outside door). In this case, a detector is only required on the ceiling of the second floor hallway - outside the apartment door. If there is a common stairwell, a detector shall be located on the ceiling on the upper level of the stairwell and a detector shall also be located on the ceiling of the lower level - in close proximity to the stairwell.
- ◆ **All smoke detectors shall be in proper working condition.**
- ◆ **If your home does not pass this inspection or if you fail to appear for this inspection, another inspection will have to be conducted and there will be a \$10.00 re-inspection fee charged at the time of scheduling of this re-inspection.**

NUMBERING OF DWELLINGS IN THE CITY OF METHUEN

Methuen City Ordinance requires that you have a house number visibly displayed on your home. The number must be put in such a place so it will be plainly visible from the street. Inspection for conformity shall be conducted by the Fire Department at the time of the smoke detector inspection of the dwelling upon sale or transfer of the property.

The following is a listing of requirements for number of dwellings as per the Ordinance:

- ◆ All structures in the City of Methuen must display building numbers made of a permanent weatherproof material and shall be a minimum of three (3) inches in height, in either block or script style. **Numbers in written form, such as “two hundred eighty-five” are not acceptable.** Numbers are to be of a contrasting color to the background surface.
- ◆ Building numbers shall be placed on each structure so as to be plainly visible from the street on which the building is located by street address. Buildings not visible from the street shall have an address marker placed in a plainly visible location (such as a post) near the street. Numbers on such markers shall be a minimum of four (4) feet in height from the street surface. Numbers should not be placed where they will be obstructed by snow, shrubbery, decorations, etc. **NUMBERS SHOULD NOT BE PLACED ON DOORS.**
- ◆ The numbers so utilized shall be those assigned by the Board of Assessors.
- ◆ It shall be the responsibility of the owner of the property, at their own expense and cost, to place or cause to be placed building numbers on structures.
- ◆ Inspection for conformity with this ordinance shall be conducted by the Fire Department as part of the required smoke detector inspection at the time of the sale or refinancing of the property. The Fire Chief or his designee shall have the authority to regulate the size, type and placement of address numbers.

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR REQUIREMENT

As per 527 CMR 31:00, effective 3/31/06, every residential structure that presently or in the future contains fossil fuel burning equipment or has enclosed parking shall be equipped with working and listed carbon monoxide alarms. ***Inspection for conformity shall be conducted by the Fire Department at the time of the smoke detector inspection of the dwelling upon sale or transfer of the property.***

- ◆ A carbon monoxide alarm shall be located in each level of a dwelling unit including habitable basements** and attics, but not including crawl spaces. Installation of said unit shall be located in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. ***Please note, a basement containing a washing machine, clothes dryer and/or workbench is considered "habitable" for the purpose of this section and a carbon monoxide detector **IS** required in these basements.*
- ◆ When mounting a carbon monoxide alarm on a level with a sleeping area, the detector shall be located in the immediate vicinity of the sleeping area, not to exceed 10 feet from any bedroom door.
- ◆ For existing structures as of 3/31/06, the carbon monoxide alarms required by this section may be either:
 - Battery operated, or;
 - Plug-in with battery back up, or;
 - Hard-wired with battery back up, or;
 - A low-voltage system, or;
 - A wireless system, or;
 - At this time, combination units are **NOT** allowed.