

Specification for

Carbon monoxide detectors (electrical) for domestic use

ICS 13.320

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Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by Technical Committee GEL/31, Electrical apparatus for explosive atmospheres, to Subcommittee GEL/31/19, Gas detectors, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- Association of British Mining Equipment Companies
- BLWA Ltd. (The Association of the Laboratory Supply Industry)
- British Gas plc
- Council of Gas Detection and Environmental Monitoring
- Council for Electrical Equipment for Flammable Atmospheres (BEAMA Ltd.)
- Engineering Equipment and Materials Users' Association
- ERA Technology Ltd.
- GAMBICA (BEAMA Ltd.)
- Safety Equipment Association
- SIRA Ltd.
- Health and Safety Executive

The following bodies were also represented in the drafting of the standard, through panels:

- Co-gas Safety
- Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
- Consumers' Association
- Department of the Environment (Building Research Establishment)
- Department of Trade and Industry (Consumer Safety Unit, C A Division)
- Gas Consumers' Council
- Institution of Gas Engineers
- LP Gas Association
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents
- Society of British Gas Industries

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Electrotechnical Sector Board, was published under the authority of the Standards Board and comes into effect on 15 March 1996

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Amendments issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date	Text affected
10451	May 1999	Indicated by a sideline

The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:
Committee reference GEL/31/19
Draft for comment 95/204637 DC

ISBN 0 580 25522 0

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Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared by subcommittee GEL/31/19. It applies to electrical apparatus which detects the presence of carbon monoxide (CO) at a particular location inside domestic premises. The apparatus gives an alarm when a particular concentration of the gas in air, measured in parts per million at the detector, is maintained for a period in excess of a specified time.

It is emphasized that a CO detection device should not be seen as a substitute for proper installation and servicing of fuel-burning appliances, or sweeping of chimneys. Such omissions, together with blocking of normal ventilation routes, have been found to be the cause of most hazardous accumulations of CO in domestic premises. Equally, a CO detector is not a substitute for a smoke alarm or a combustible gas detector.

This standard also specifies requirements for units fitted with an optional “hush” feature. The purpose of this feature is to effect a temporary reduction of amplitude of an audible alarm signal in order to allow the user time to think and to take appropriate action. A hush feature is designed so as to operate only at lower CO concentrations and only once during any exposure to CO.

Annex A of this standard describes the effects of the accumulation of carbon monoxide in the human bloodstream.

Product certification. Users of this British Standard are advised to consider the desirability of third party certification of product conformity to this British Standard, based on testing and continuing product surveillance which may be coupled with assessment of a supplier's quality systems against the appropriate standard in the BS EN ISO 9000 series.

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