Safety Standards for CO-Detecting Devices

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at least 420 people in the U.S. die each year and more than 100,000 people are sent to emergency departments due to accidental carbon monoxide poisoning.[1] Because CO is a colorless and odorless gas that must be monitored by alarm systems UL Standards & Engagement published the following Standards providing requirements for the performance, construction, marking, and instructions of these products.

UL 2034, Standard for Single and Multiple Station Carbon Monoxide Alarms:

These requirements cover electrically operated single and multiple station carbon monoxide alarms intended for protection of ordinary indoor locations.

• Carbon monoxide alarms covered by this Standard are not intended to alarm when exposed to long-term, low-level carbon monoxide exposures or slightly higher short-term transient carbon monoxide exposures.

• This Standard requires CO alarms to sound an audible end-of-life tone (indicating the need for device replacement) that is different from the alarm signal.

UL 2075, Standard for Gas and Vapor Detectors and Sensors:

This Standard applies to fixed, portable and transportable toxic and combustible gas and vapor detectors and sensors intended for use in indoor or unconditioned non-hazardous locations.

• These requirements also cover all remote accessories that are intended to be connected to gas or vapor detectors and/or sensors that are factory sealed and allow no field maintenance.

• This Standard requires CO detectors to send an end-of-life signal to the control unit and the remote supervising station.

UL standards are developed using our consensus-based process, which is accredited in the United States and Canada. Our technical committees are composed of volunteer stakeholders such as authorities having jurisdiction, manufacturers, testing labs, and safety organizations. These standards are recognized by regulatory authorities in many countries and regions including the U.S., Canada, and Europe, and are subject to a continuous review cycle to ensure they reflect the latest in safety practices and technology.

If you would like to get involved in the development and ongoing maintenance of UL standards, please visit ULSE.org/get-involved

[1]Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning Prevention." (2023). https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/features/copoisoning/