



## An AmTrust North America Loss Control Newsletter

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### **New York State: Carbon Monoxide Detector Law Change**

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is slightly less dense than air. It is toxic to humans in concentrations above 35 ppm. CO is produced from the partial oxidation of carbon-containing compounds; forming when there is not enough oxygen to produce carbon dioxide, such as when operating a stove or an internal combustion engine in an enclosed space.

Legislation enacted in New York in 2014 requires every restaurant and commercial building in the state to install and maintain carbon monoxide detectors by June 2015. Failure to comply with the law can result in fines of up to \$1,000 per day of violation, or imprisonment of up to one year, or both.

Under prior state law, every single-family home, two-family home, condominium, cooperative and each unit of a multiple dwelling building required a working CO detector. Restaurants and other commercial buildings were excluded under prior law. This new law is retroactive; it covers all existing facilities and new construction.

The law requires an owner of any restaurant or commercial building to install and maintain operable carbon monoxide detecting devices in conformance with standards established by the State. CO detectors will be required if the restaurant or commercial building has appliances, devices or systems that may emit carbon monoxide or an attached garage. Examples include: fuel burning heaters, gas water heaters, kerosene space heaters, propane stoves and gas ovens, and gasoline or diesel powered generators.

AmTrust recommends that businesses contact their licensed security and fire system providers for assistance in acquiring, installing and maintaining the necessary equipment. Additional information, including the types of CO detector permissible under this law, and placement of the CO detectors within the buildings may be found here:

New York: <http://open.nysenate.gov/legislation/api/1.0/pdf/bill/A8963A-2013>

New York: [http://www.dos.ny.gov/DCEA/pdf/TEXTCO\\_20150602.pdf](http://www.dos.ny.gov/DCEA/pdf/TEXTCO_20150602.pdf)

For other safety and risk management subjects be sure to visit the Loss Control section on our website:

<https://www.amtrustgroup.com/small-business-insurance/claims/prevention>

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#### CONTACT INFO:

PHONE: 888.486.7466 ext. 363275

WEB: [www.amtrustnorthamerica.com](http://www.amtrustnorthamerica.com)

EMAIL: [lcinfo@amtrustgroup.com](mailto:lcinfo@amtrustgroup.com)

#### MAILING ADDRESS:

AmTrust North America

Loss Control

2605 Enterprise Road, Suite 290

Clearwater, FL 33759