

Testing of Carbon Monoxide Alarms



Many modern CO alarms use advanced sensing technology to ensure that they operate safely for long periods of time.

Many also use various techniques to interrogate the CO sensor, and can identify if it is faulty in any way. Unfortunately, whilst this can test the inside of a CO alarm, it is not possible to detect whether or not gas can enter the alarm in the first place. It is therefore our recommendation that CO alarms be tested externally at least once every 6 to 12 months with a suitable source of carbon monoxide gas.

There are a number of methods available. Some use a can of carefully measured CO gas whilst others use a slow burning substance to supply a more general concentration of CO. Users of CO alarms should contact the manufacturer of the alarm for further information about the most suitable method.