

Life Safety Codes: Everything Activities



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Terminology

- LSC – Life Safety Code
- NFPA - National Fire Protection Association
 - The NFPA publishes the Codes and Standards CMS uses in determining compliance with the fire safety requirements of our regulations
- HCFC - Health Care Facilities Code
- CMS – Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- SA – State Agencies
- SFA – State Fire Authority
 - State Fire Marshall OR employee of state agencies

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What is Life Safety Code (LSC)?

- The LSC is a set of fire protection requirements designed to provide:
 - A reasonable degree of safety from fire. It covers construction, protection, and operational features designed to provide safety from fire, smoke, and panic.



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What is Health Care Facilities (HCF) Code?

Set requirements intended to provide minimum requirements for the installation, inspection, testing, maintenance, performance and safe practices for facilities, material, equipment and appliances.

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Life Safety Code
+
Health Care Facilities Code
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Publication of the NFPA

NFPA was founded in 1896 to promote the science and improve the methods of fire protection.

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Basics



- Facilities participating in the Medicare and Medicaid programs is compliance with the 2012 edition of the NFPA LSC and HCFC.
- CMS partners with State Agencies (SA) to assess facilities for compliance with the LSC requirements.
- SAs may enter into sub-agreements or contracts with the State Fire Marshal offices or other State agencies responsible for enforcing State fire code requirements.

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State Fire Authority: (AKA Life Safety Surveyor/Inspector)

- Survey Skilled Nursing Facilities, Assisted Living, Secured Memory Care Units.
- Complete the appropriate Fire Safety Survey Report (Form CMS-2786)
- Prepare statements of deficiencies and review Plans of Correction (Form CMS-2567)
- Make recommendations to the SA regarding facilities' compliance with program fire safety requirements.
- Qualified fire safety inspectors who have received CMS training in the performance of these surveys.

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How it works

In most cases, the SA schedules the LSC/HCFC survey to coincide with the health survey; however, the timing of the LSC/HCFC survey is left to the discretion of the SAs.

The SA determines whether the LSC survey is to occur before, after, or simultaneously with the health survey.

States may also require their own initial survey before permitting facilities to become operational and admit patients.

Facilities conforming to the LSC and HCFC or with an acceptable Plan of Correction are considered "in compliance."

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Regulation Translation Federal Regulation

- Federal Regulation
 - § 483.90 Physical environment. The facility must be designed, constructed, equipped, and maintained to protect the health and safety of residents, personnel and the public.
 - (h) Dining and resident activities. The facility must provide one or more rooms designated for resident dining and activities. These rooms must— (1) Be well lighted; (2) Be well ventilated; (3) Be adequately furnished; and (4) Have sufficient space to accommodate all activities.

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Regulation Translation NFPA LSC Requirements

- CMS Form 2786 – Life Safety Surveyor will complete
- 50 Pages
- <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/Downloads/CMS2786R.pdf>

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Regulation Translation NFPA LSC Requirements

- Page 6
 - K211 Means of Egress – General Aisles, passageways, corridors, exit discharges, exit locations, and accesses are in accordance with Chapter 7, and the means of egress is continuously maintained free of all obstructions to full use in case of emergency.
- Page 14
 - Exit Signage 2012 EXISTING Exit and directional signs are displayed. Illumination also served by the emergency lighting system.
- Page 35
 - Draperies, Curtains, and Loosely Hanging Fabrics Draperies, curtains, do not exceed 48 square feet or total area does not exceed 20 percent of the wall.

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Regulation Translation NFPA LSC Requirements

- Page 36 Combustible decorations shall be prohibited unless one of the following is met:
 - Flame retardant or treated with approved fire-retardant coating that is listed and labeled for product.
 - Decorations meet NFPA 701.
 - Decorations exhibit heat release less than 100 kilowatts in accordance with NFPA 289.
 - Decorations, such as photographs, paintings and other art are attached to the walls, ceilings and non-fire-rated doors.
 - The decorations in existing occupancies are in such limited quantities that a hazard of fire development or spread is not present.

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Regulation Translation NFPA LSC Requirements



- Page 37
 - Portable space heating devices shall be prohibited in all health care occupancies...
- Page 43
 - Electrical Equipment Power Strips
 - Power strips (relocatable power tapes (RPT)) used within 6' of patient bed must be certified UL 1363A or UL 10601-1 and may only be used of patient care related electrical equipment (PCREE)
 - No non-PCREE may be plugged into a power strip within 6' of patient bed.
 - Power strips for non-PCREE in the patient care rooms (outside of vicinity of patient bed) must meet UL 1363.
 - Power strips cannot be interconnected "daisy-chained" to increase length.
 - Confirm that the power strip is not attached to the wall or furniture as it cannot be used as permanent wiring.

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Regulation Translation NFPA LSC Requirements

- Sprinkler 18 Inch
 - Nothing should be in that area between the bottom of the sprinkler heads and the imaginary horizontal plane parallel to the ceiling that is 18 inches below. This is done to allow an even and unobstructed spray pattern from the sprinklers when triggered to extinguish the fire.
- Suspended Floor Obstructions
 - Items should be elevated off floor to allow as to not obstruct sprinkler flow.

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Top 4 Activity – Life Safety Citations



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Thank you!

Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions, we look forward to hearing from you!

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