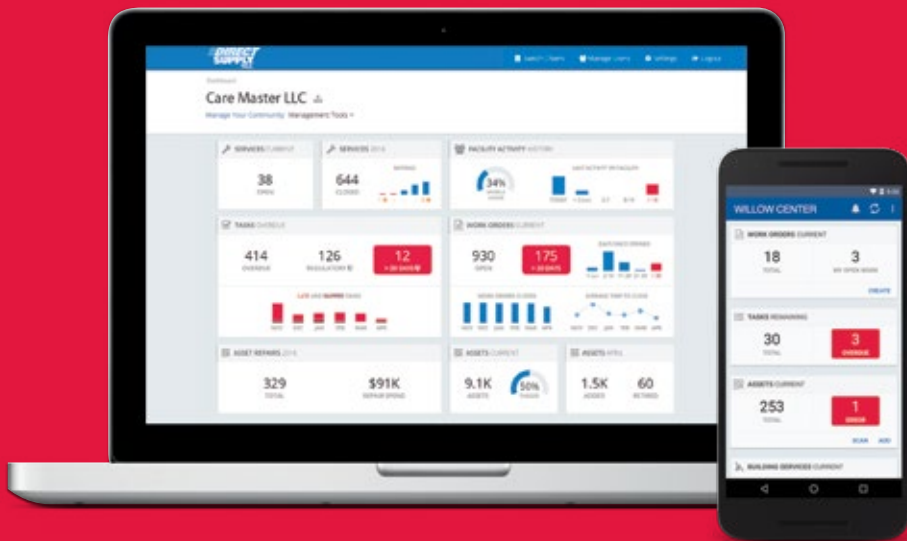


# 2012 LIFE SAFETY CODE **SURVIVAL GUIDE**

CHECK OUT TOP 2012 LIFE SAFETY CODE  
CHANGES INSIDE & GO TAGLESS WITH TELS



The Final Rule reviews the full history, definitions and provisions for adopting the 2012 code. This document provides a high-level summary of the provisions. For a more comprehensive overview, visit the following website:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/05/04/2016-10043/medicare-and-medicaid-programs-fire-safety-requirements-for-certain-health-care-facilities>

The NFPA 101 (2012), known as the Life Safety Code, is mandated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and is effective beginning July 5, 2016, for certain facilities receiving Medicare and/or Medicaid funding. Additional federal, state and local requirements (such as, but not limited to, the Americans with Disabilities Act, federal conditions of participation, state and local fire codes, and state regulations for facilities) may apply. Contact your AHJ in the event of a conflict between two or more requirements.

## HEALTHCARE OCCUPANCIES



### CORRIDOR PROJECTIONS

Sections 18.2.3.4(2) and 19.2.3.4(2)

**Provisions:**

*New:* Noncontinuous projections may not be more than 6 inches from the corridor wall (ADA requirements of no more than 4 inches) and not less than 38 inches above the floor.

*Existing:* Where corridor width is at least 6 feet, noncontinuous projections may not be more than 6 inches from the corridor wall (ADA requirements of no more than 4 inches) and above the handrail height.

**TELS Critical Life Safety Task:** An annual facility inspection will help you ensure items attached to walls in corridors are not projecting more than 4 inches and are not below the permitted height. Contact TELS to add this task to your work schedule.



### RECYCLING

Sections 18.7.5.7.2 and 19.7.5.7.2

**Provision:** Recycling containers solely used for noncombustible clean waste are limited to maximum capacity of 96 gallons unless in a hazardous materials room.

**TELS Critical Life Safety Task:** An annual facility inspection will help you ensure recycling containers do not exceed maximum capacity of 96 gallons. Contact TELS to add this task to your work schedule.



### ROLLER LATCHES

Sections 18.3.6.3.9.1 and 19.3.6.3.5

**Provisions:**

*New:* Roller latches are prohibited in new facilities unless they meet certain requirements and are used in an acute psychiatric setting.

*Existing:* Roller latches are permitted if acceptable to the AHJ, the facility is fully sprinklered, and the latch keeps the door fully closed when a force of 5 lbs. is applied at the latch edge of the door.

**TELS Critical Life Safety Task:** Annual inspection to switch out roller latches. Contact TELS to add this task to your work schedule.



### SPRINKLERS IN HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS

Sections 18.4.2 and 19.4.2

**Provisions:**

*New:* New high-rise facilities must be fully sprinklered.

*Existing:* Any existing facilities that are high-rise will be required (in 12 years; unless the AHJ previously adopted the 2009 LSC, then in 9 years) to be fully sprinklered.

**Update:** Start planning/budgeting efforts to put sprinklers in place where needed.

## HEALTHCARE OCCUPANCIES continued



### DOOR LOCKING

*Sections 18.2.2.2.5.2 and 19.2.2.2.5.2*

**Provision:** Interior doors may be locked as long as staff can readily unlock doors at all times and certain other requirements are met. Also, it is no longer prohibited to have more than one delayed egress door along the egress path.

**Update:** Buildings can now install locked doors if they follow requirements outlined.



### ALCOHOL-BASED HAND-RUB DISPENSERS

*Sections 18.3.2.6 and 19.3.2.6*

**Provision:** Allows alcohol-based hand-rub dispensers in healthcare facilities as long as they follow requirements.

**Update:** Buildings can now install dispensers provided they meet the requirements.



### ANESTHETIZING LOCATIONS

*Section 18.3.2.3 and 19.3.2.3*

**Provision:** Anesthetizing locations must meet the requirements of NFPA 99 (2012).

**TELS Critical Life Safety Task:** Fully review NFPA 99 (2012). Contact TELS to add this task to your work schedule.



### CORRIDORS

*Sections 18.2.3.4 and 19.2.3.4*

**Provision:** Allows patient lift and transport equipment to be kept in corridors for more timely patient care. Permits fixed furniture where corridor widths are sufficient.

**Update:** Wheelchairs and lifts can be kept in corridors.



### COOKING FACILITIES

*Sections 18.3.2.5 and 19.3.2.5*

**Provision:** One cooking facility, which is open to the hallway corridor, is allowed in a smoke compartment where food is prepared for 30 beds or less as long as certain requirements are met.

**Update:** Cooking facilities now may have an opening to the hallway corridor. This will permit residents to make food for themselves or others if they choose to.



### FURNISHINGS AND DECORATIONS

*Sections 18.7.5.6 and 19.7.5.6*

**Provision:** Allows a certain amount of combustible décor as long as it is flame-retardant or has fire-retardant coating, or meets other certain requirements.

**Update:** The provisions offer Long Term Care facilities greater flexibility in what they can place in corridors. Moving forward, LTC facilities will be able to include more home-like items such as certain decorations in patient rooms.



### FIREPLACES

*Sections 18.5.2.3 and 19.5.2.3*

**Provision:** Allows fireplaces in certain areas provided that all requirements are met.

**Update:** Fireplaces are permitted to make the facility more home-like for residents.



### RELOCATABLE POWER TAPS (RPTs)

*Section 2.2*

**Provision:** The Life Safety Code now references NFPA 99 (2012), which allows RPTs in certain areas of the facility without a categorical waiver.

**Update:** Buildings can now use RPTs in accordance with the requirements in NFPA 99 (2012).

## RESIDENTIAL BOARD & CARE OCCUPANCIES



### SPRINKLERS

Section 32.2.3.5.3.2

**New Occupancies Provision:** Requires an automatic sprinkler system with a 30-minute water supply installed in all habitable areas and closets as well as roofed porches, balconies and decks. Must comply with applicable NFPA 13D/13R.

**Update:** New sprinkler system requirements.



### ATTICS

Sections 32.2.3.5.7 and 33.2.3.5.7

**Provision:** Requires most attics to be sprinklered.

**Update:** Start planning/budgeting efforts to put sprinklers in place where needed.



### SMOKE ALARMS

Section 32.3.3.4.7

**Provision:** New occupancies require smoke alarms approved with NFPA 72 (2010) to be installed inside every sleeping room, outside every sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms, and on all levels within a residential unit.

**Update:** New constructions must install approved smoke alarms.



### HAZARDOUS AREAS

Section 33.3.3.2.3

**Provision:** In existing facilities with impractical evacuation capabilities, all hazardous areas must be separated from other parts of an existing building by a minimum of smoke partitions.

**TELS Critical Life Safety Task:** An annual facility inspection will help ensure all hazardous areas are separated from other parts of the building by smoke partitions. Contact TELS to add this task to your work schedule.



### SPRINKLER MAINTENANCE

Sections 32.2.3.5.8 and 33.2.3.5.8

**Provision:** NFPA 13D (2010) systems have to be inspected in accordance with NFPA 25 (2011).

**TELS Critical Life Safety Task:** Perform regular inspections in accordance with timing specified in the code. Contact TELS to add this task to your work schedule.



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