


Life Safety Code Overview


Presented by

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Life Safety Code

The purpose of the Life Safety Code (LSC) is to provide minimum requirements for a reasonable degree of safety from fire in buildings and structures.



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- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is a Federal agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. CMS requires a Life Safety Code Survey for all Medicare/Medicaid certification.
- This includes, but is not limited to, Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs), Nursing Facilities (NFs), Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASC), Inpatient Hospice facilities, Program for All inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) facilities, Critical Access Hospitals (CAH), Psychiatric and General Hospitals, including validation surveys of accredited facilities.



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The basic requirement for facilities participating in the Medicare and Medicaid programs is compliance with NFPA 101 Life Safety Code.

Facilities with waivers of the health occupancy provisions of the LSC or with an acceptable Plan of Correction are considered "in compliance."




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- CMS partners with State agencies (SA), to assist with compliance with the LSC. The Virginia Health Department manages the health inspections and LSC surveys in partnership with the Virginia State Fire Marshal.
- To assess facilities' compliance with the LSC and other Medicare and Medicaid fire safety requirements, the SA may enter into a subagreement or a contract with the State fire Marshal's office or other State agency responsible for enforcing State fire code requirements.



Life Safety Code


- NFPA 101 –Life Safety Code



Life Safety Code


Chapter 1 Administration

- **1.1.2 Danger to Life from Fire.** The *Code* addresses those construction protection, and occupancy features necessary to minimize danger to life from the effects of fire, including




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1.1.3 Egress Facilities. The *Code* establishes minimum criteria for the design of egress facilities so as to allow prompt escape of occupants from buildings or, where desirable, into safe areas within buildings.




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- **1.1.4 Other Fire-Related Considerations.** The *Code* addresses other considerations that are essential to life safety in recognition of the fact that life safety is more than a matter of egress. The *Code* also addresses protective features and systems, building services, operating features, maintenance activities, and other provisions in recognition of the fact that achieving an acceptable degree of life safety depends on additional safeguards to provide adequate egress time or protection for people exposed to fire.




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1.1.5* Considerations Not Related to Fire. The *Code* also addresses other considerations that, while important in fire conditions, provide an ongoing benefit in other conditions of use, including non-fire emergencies.





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1.2* Purpose. The purpose of this *Code* is to provide minimum requirements, with due regard to function, for the design, operation, and maintenance of buildings and structures for safety to life from fire. Its provisions will also aid life safety in similar emergencies.




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What is meant by similar emergencies and non-fire related emergencies?









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- Chapter 2 Referenced Publications
- 2.1 General. The documents or portions thereof listed in this chapter are referenced within this code and shall be considered part of the requirements of this document.
- NFPA 10, *Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers*, 2007 edition.
- NFPA13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, 2007 edition.
- NFPA 17A, *Standard for Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems*, 2009 edition.
- NFPA 70®, *National Electrical Code®*, 2008 edition.
- NFPA 72®, *National Fire Alarm Code®*, 2007 edition. (2010 edition enforced)
- NFPA 80, *Standard for Fire Doors and Other Opening Protectives*, 2007 edition.
- NFPA 90A, *Standard for the Installation of Air-Conditioning and Ventilating Systems*, 2009 edition.
- NFPA 96, *Standard for Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations*, 2006 edition.
- Section also includes various other standards.



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Chapter 3 Definitions
Chapter 4 General

- 4.5.2 **Appropriateness of Safeguards.** Every building or structure shall be provided with means of egress and other fire and life safety safeguards of the kinds, numbers, locations, and capacities appropriate to the individual building or structure, with due regard to the following:
 - (1) Character of the occupancy, including fire load
 - (2) Capabilities of the occupants
 - (3) Number of persons exposed
 - (4) Fire protection available
 - (5) Capabilities of response personnel
 - (6) Height and construction type of the building or structure
 - (7) Other factors necessary to provide occupants with a reasonable degree of Safety



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- 4.5.3.1 **Number of Means of Egress.** Two means of egress, as a minimum, shall be provided in every building or structure, section, and area where size, occupancy, and arrangement endanger occupants attempting to use a single means of egress that is blocked by fire or smoke. The two means of egress shall be arranged to minimize the possibility that both might be rendered impassable by the same emergency condition.

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- 4.5.3.2 **Unobstructed Egress.** In every occupied building or structure, means of egress from all parts of the building shall be maintained free and unobstructed. Means of egress shall be accessible to the extent necessary to ensure reasonable safety for occupants having impaired mobility.











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- 4.5.3.3 **Awareness of Egress System.** Every exit shall be clearly visible, or the route to reach every exit shall be conspicuously indicated. Each means of egress, in its entirety, shall be arranged or marked so that the way to a place of safety is indicated in a clear manner.










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Chapter 6 Classification of Occupancy and Hazard of Contents

- 6.1.5.1* **Definition —Health Care Occupancy.** An occupancy used to provide medical or other treatment or care simultaneously to four or more patients on an inpatient basis, where such patients are mostly incapable of self-preservation due to age, physical or mental disability, or because of security measures not under the occupants' control.



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- 6.1.6.1* **Definition—Ambulatory Health Care Occupancy.**
- An occupancy used to provide services or treatment simultaneously to four or more patients that provides, on an outpatient basis, one or more of the following:
 - (1) Treatment for patients that renders the patients incapable of taking action for self-preservation under emergency conditions without the assistance of others



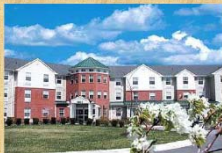
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- (2) Anesthesia that renders the patients incapable of taking action for self-preservation under emergency conditions without the assistance of others
- (3) Emergency or urgent care for patients who, due to the nature of their injury or illness, are incapable of taking action for self-preservation under emergency conditions without the assistance of others



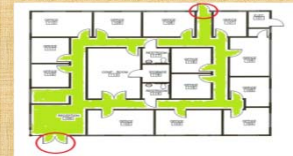
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- 6.1.9.1* **Definition—Residential Board and Care Occupancy.** An occupancy used for lodging and boarding of four or more residents, not related by blood or marriage to the owners or operators, for the purpose of providing personal care services.



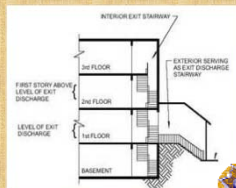
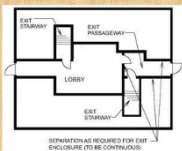
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- Chapter 7 Means of Egress
- 3.3.161* **Means of Egress.** A continuous and unobstructed way of travel from any point in a building or structure to a public way consisting of three separate and distinct parts: (1) the exit access, (2) the exit, and (3) the exit discharge.



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- 7.1.3.2.2 An exit enclosure shall provide a continuous protected path of travel to an exit discharge



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- 7.1.10.1* **General.** Means of egress shall be continuously maintained free of all obstructions or impediments to full instant use in the case of fire or other emergency.



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- **7.2.1.5 Locks, Latches, and Alarm Devices.**
- **7.2.1.5.1** Door leaves shall be arranged to be opened readily from the egress side whenever the building is occupied.
- **7.2.1.5.2** Locks, if provided, shall not require the use of a key, a tool, or special knowledge or effort for operation from the egress side.






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Special Locking Arrangements

- **7.2.1.5.5 Electrically Controlled Egress Door Assemblies**
- **7.2.1.6.1 Delayed-Egress Locking Systems**
- **7.2.1.6.2* Access-Controlled Egress Door Assemblies**
- **7.2.1.6.3 Elevator Lobby Exit Access Door Assemblies Locking**










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Access-Controlled Egress Doors and Delayed-Egress Locking Systems





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- **7.2.1.7 Panic Hardware and Fire Exit Hardware.**
- **7.2.1.7.2** Only approved panic hardware shall be used on door assemblies that are not fire-rated door assemblies. Only approved fire exit hardware shall be used on fire-rated door assemblies.
- **7.2.1.7.4** Devices that hold the latch in the retracted position shall be prohibited on fire exit hardware, unless such devices are listed and approved for such a purpose.





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- **7.2.12 Areas of Refuge.**
- **7.2.12.1.2** An area of refuge used as part of a required accessible means of egress in accordance with 7.5.4 in other than a building that is protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7 shall meet the following criteria:
 - (1) The area of refuge shall meet the general requirements of Section 7.1.
 - (2) The area of refuge shall meet the requirements of 7.2.12.2 and 7.2.12.3

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- Chapter 9 Building Service and Fire Protection Equipment
- **9.6.1.3** A fire alarm system required for life safety shall be installed, tested, and maintained in accordance with the applicable requirements of NFPA 70, National Electrical Code, and NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code, unless it is an approved existing installation, which shall be permitted to be continued in use.



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9.6.1.7 For the purposes of this Code, a complete fire alarm system shall provide functions for initiation, notification, and control, which shall perform as follows:

- (1) The initiation function provides the input signal to the system.
- (2) The notification function is the means by which the system advises that human action is required in response to a particular condition.
- (3) The control function provides outputs to control building equipment to enhance protection of life.



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38.3.4.3 **Occupant Notification.** During all times that the building is occupied, the required fire alarm system, once initiated, shall activate a general alarm in accordance with 9.6.3 throughout the building, and positive alarm sequence in accordance with 9.6.3.4 shall be permitted.



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9.9* **Portable Fire Extinguishers.** Where required by another section of this Code, portable fire extinguishers shall be selected, installed, inspected, and maintained in accordance with NFPA 10, *Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers*.



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9.11 Fire Protection System Operating Features.

9.11.1 **Maintenance and Testing.** All automatic sprinkler and standpipe systems required by this Code shall be inspected, tested, and maintained in accordance with NFPA 25, *Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems*.



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9.11.3.2 Testing and maintenance records required by NFPA 25, *Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems*, shall be maintained at an approved, secured location.



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- Control valve visual inspection to ensure they are in an open position
- All control valves are required to be electronically supervised (tamper switches)
- Chains and padlocks are not an acceptable alternative to electronic monitoring



Questions



Thank You

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