EC and LS Chapter Revisions

The Joint Commission has approved the following revisions for prepublication. While revised requirements are published in the semiannual updates to the print manuals (as well as in the online E-dition®), accredited organizations and paid subscribers can also view them in the monthly periodical The Joint Commission Perspectives®. To begin your subscription, call 800-746-6578 or visit http://www.jcrinc.com.

Please note: Where applicable, this report shows current standards and EPs first, with deleted language struck-through. Then, the revised requirement follows in bold text, with new language underlined.

APPLICABLE TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES ACCREDITATION PROGRAM
Effective January 1, 2023

Environment of Care (EC) Chapter

EC.01.01.01

The organization plans activities that minimize risks in the environment of care. 
Note: One or more persons can be assigned to manage risks associated with the management plans described in this standard.

Element(s) of Performance for EC.01.01.01

9. The organization has a written plan for managing the following: Utility systems.

Note: In circumstances where the program or service is located in a business occupancy not owned by the accredited organization, the plan may only need to address how routine service and maintenance for their utility systems are obtained.

EC.02.03.05

The organization maintains fire safety equipment and fire safety building features. 
Note: This standard does not require organizations to have the types of fire safety equipment and building features described in the elements of performance of this standard. However, if these types of equipment or features exist within the building, then the following maintenance, testing, and inspection requirements apply.

Element(s) of Performance for EC.02.03.05
1. At least quarterly, the organization tests supervisory signal devices on the inventory (except valve tamper switches). The results and completion dates are documented.

Note 1: For additional guidance on performing tests, see NFPA 72-2010: Table 14.4.5.

Note 2: Supervisory signal devices include the following: pressure supervisory indicating devices (including both high- and low-air pressure switches), water level supervisory indicating devices, water temperature supervisory indicating devices, room temperature supervisory indicating devices, valve supervisory switches, and other supervisory initiating devices.

1. The organization tests supervisory signal devices on the inventory in accordance with the following time frames:
   - Quarterly for pressure supervisory indicating devices (including both high- and low-air pressure switches), water level supervisory indicating devices, water temperature supervisory indicating devices, room temperature supervisory indicating devices, and other suppression system supervisory initiating devices
   - Semiannually for valve supervisory switches
   - Annually for other supervisory initiating devices

The results and completion dates are documented.

Note 1: For additional guidance on performing tests, see NFPA 72-2010: Table 14.4.5.

Note 2: Water storage tanks and associated water storage equipment are not required to be tested.

Life Safety (LS) Chapter

**LS.01.02.01**

The organization protects occupants during periods when the Life Safety Code is not met or during periods of construction.

Note: This standard applies to behavioral health care settings that provide sleeping arrangements for four or more individuals served as a required part of their care, treatment, or services.

**Element(s) of Performance for LS.01.02.01**

1. The organization has a written interim life safety measures (ILSM) policy that covers situations when Life Safety Code deficiencies cannot be immediately corrected or during periods of construction. The policy includes criteria for evaluating when and to what extent the organization implements LS.01.02.01, EPs 2–15 to compensate for increased life safety risk. The criteria include the assessment process to determine when interim life safety measures are implemented.

Note: For any Life Safety Code (LSC) deficiency that cannot be immediately corrected during survey, the organization identifies what ILSMs in their policy will be implemented until the issue is corrected.
15. The organization's policy allows the use of other ILSMs not addressed in EPs 2–14.  

Note 1: The organization’s ILSM policy addresses Life Safety Code Requirements for Improvement (RFI) that are not immediately corrected during survey.  

Note 2: The “other” ILSMs used are documented by selecting “other” and annotating the associated text box in the organization's Survey-Related Plan for Improvement (SPFI) within the Statement of Conditions™ (SOC).

LS.02.01.10

Building and fire protection features are designed and maintained to minimize the effects of fire, smoke, and heat.  

Note: This standard applies to behavioral health care settings that provide sleeping arrangements as a required part of their care, treatment, or services and that lock doors to prohibit individuals served from leaving the building or space.

Element(s) of Performance for LS.02.01.10

9. The fire protection ratings for opening protectives in fire barriers, fire-rated smoke barriers, and fire-rated smoke partitions are as follows:
- Three hours in three-hour barriers and partitions
- Ninety minutes in two-hour barriers and partitions
- Forty-five minutes in one-hour barriers and partitions
- Twenty minutes in thirty-minute barriers and partitions  
(For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 8.3.4; 8.3.3.2; Table 8.3.4.2)

Note: Labels on fire door assemblies must be maintained in legible condition.

9. The fire protection ratings for opening protectives in fire barriers and fire-rated smoke barriers are as follows:
- Three hours in three-hour barriers
- Ninety minutes in two-hour barriers
- Forty-five minutes in one-hour barriers
- Twenty minutes in thirty-minute barriers  
(For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 8.3.3.2; 8.3.4; Table 8.3.4.2)

Note: Labels on fire door assemblies must be maintained in legible condition.

LS.05.01.10

Building and fire protection features are designed and maintained to minimize the effects of fire, smoke, and heat.  

Note: This standard applies to buildings that are business occupancies where individuals receive services.

Element(s) of Performance for LS.05.01.10
3. The fire protection rating for opening protectives in fire barriers, fire-rated smoke barriers, and fire-rated smoke partitions is as follows:
- Three hours in 3-hour barriers and partitions
- Ninety minutes in 2-hour barriers and partitions
- Forty-five minutes in 1-hour barriers and partitions
- Twenty minutes in ½-hour barriers and partitions
Labels on fire door assemblies must be maintained in legible condition. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 8.3.4.2; Table 8.3.4.2; 8.3.3.2.3; NFPA 80-2010: 5.2.13.3)

3. The fire protection ratings for opening protectives in fire barriers are as follows:
- Three hours in three-hour barriers
- Ninety minutes in two-hour barriers
- Forty-five minutes in one-hour barriers
- Twenty minutes in thirty-minute barriers
Labels on fire door assemblies must be maintained in legible condition. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 8.3.4.2; Table 8.3.4.2; 8.3.3.2.3; NFPA 80-2010: 5.2.13.3)

4. Vertical openings must be protected in the following manner:
- Enclosures serving four or more floors in new construction must have a 2-hour fire rating.
- Enclosures serving three or less floors in new construction must have a 1-hour fire rating.
- Enclosures in existing construction must have a ½-hour fire rating.
- A vertical opening below the street level that contains storage or communicates with a different occupancy must be protected.
(For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 38/39.3)

5. The space around pipes, conduits, bus ducts, cables, wire, air ducts, or pneumatic tubes penetrating the walls or floors are protected with an approved fire-rated material.
Note: Non-approved polyurethane expanding foam is not an accepted fire-rated material for this purpose. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 8.3.5)

5. The space around pipes, conduits, bus ducts, cables, wire, air ducts, or pneumatic tubes penetrating fire-rated walls or floors are protected with an approved fire-rated material. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 8.3.5)
Note: Non-approved polyurethane expanding foam is not an accepted fire-rated material for this purpose.

**LS.05.01.20**

The organization maintains the integrity of the means of egress.
Note: This standard applies to buildings that are business occupancies where individuals receive services.

**Element(s) of Performance for LS.05.01.20**

Key: ☐ indicates that documentation is required; ☐ indicates an identified risk area;
8. Doors in a means of egress are not equipped with a latch or lock that requires the use of a tool or key from the egress side unless a compliant locking configuration is used, such as a delayed-egress locking system or an access-controlled egress door assembly. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 7.2.1.6.1, 7.2.1.6.2)

8. Doors in a means of egress are not equipped with a latch or lock that requires the use of a tool or key from the egress side unless a compliant locking configuration is used, such as a delayed-egress locking system or an access-controlled egress door assembly. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 38/39.2.2.2; 7.2.1.5.3; 7.2.1.6.1; 7.2.1.6.2)

Note: An exception to this requirement would be the principal entrance/exit doors with key-operated locks that meet the criteria of NFPA 101-2012 7.2.1.5.5.

**LS.05.01.30**

The organization provides and maintains building features to protect individuals from the hazards of fire and smoke. Note: This standard applies to buildings that are business occupancies where individuals receive services.

**Element(s) of Performance for LS.05.01.30**

1. Hazardous areas are protected from other areas by a 1-hour fire resistance-rated barrier (45 minute opening protectives) or a smoke resistive barrier and automatic sprinklers. Doors must be self-closing or automatic closing with latching hardware. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 38/39.3.2)

1. All hazardous areas are enclosed with one-hour fire-rated walls with ¾-hour fire-rated doors; or hazardous areas have sprinkler systems and are constructed to resist the passage of smoke with doors equipped with self-closing or automatic-closing devices. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 38/39.3.2; 8.7; NFPA 80-2010: 4.8.4.1; 6.3.1.7; 6.5)
3. Alcohol-based hand rubs (ABHR) are stored and handled in accordance with NFPA 101-2012: 8.7.3.1 and as follows:
   - Corridor clear width of 44 inches is not compromised by dispenser.
   - ABHR does not exceed 95% alcohol.
   - Maximum individual dispenser capacity is 0.32 gallons of fluid (0.53 gallons in suites or rooms separated from corridors) or 18 ounces of NFPA Level 1–classified aerosols.
   - Dispensers have a minimum of 4 feet of horizontal spacing between them.
   - Dispensers are not installed within 1 inch of an ignition source.
   - If floor is carpeted, the building is fully sprinkler protected.
   - Operation of the dispensers must comply with the manufacturers’ instructions for use.
   - ABHR is protected against inappropriate access.
   - Not more than an aggregate of 10 gallons of fluid or 1135 ounces of aerosol are used in a single smoke compartment outside a storage cabinet, excluding one individual dispenser per room.
   - Storing more than 5 gallons of fluid in a single smoke compartment complies with NFPA 30.

**LS.05.01.34**

The organization provides and maintains fire alarm systems.

Note: This standard applies to buildings that are business occupancies where individuals receive services.

**Element(s) of Performance for LS.05.01.34**

Key: ③ indicates that documentation is required; ④ indicates an identified risk area;
1. Fire alarm systems for existing construction are required if the building is three or more stories in height, there are 100 occupants or more below or above the level of exit discharge, or the building has 1000 or more occupants. The fire alarm system is initiated by manual means, a fire/smoke detection system, or a fire suppression system. The occupant notification system must activate a general alarm; however, in existing occupancies, notification can be made using voice communication or a public address system. A fail-safe process must be provided to notify emergency forces. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 39.3.4)

2. Fire alarm systems for new construction are required if the building is three or more stories in height, there are 50 occupants or more below or above the level of exit discharge, or the building has 300 or more occupants. The fire alarm system is initiated by manual means, a fire/smoke detection system, or a fire suppression system. The occupant notification system must activate a general alarm. (For full text, refer to 2012 NFPA 101-2012: 38.3.4)

4. For new construction, a process for emergency response notification is provided and includes notifying both of the following:
   - Fire department in accordance with NFPA 101-2012: 9.6.4
   - Local emergency organization, if provided
   (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 38.3.4.4)

5. For existing construction, notification of emergency forces is accomplished in accordance with NFPA 101-2012: 9.6.4 when the existing fire alarm system is replaced. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 39.3.4.4)

**LS.05.01.35**

The organization provides and maintains equipment for extinguishing fires.

Note: This standard applies to buildings that are business occupancies where individuals receive services.

**Element(s) of Performance for LS.05.01.35**
Moved to LS.05.01.34, EPs 4 and 5

1. For new construction, a process for emergency response notification is provided and includes notifying both of the following:
   - Fire department in accordance with NFPA 101-2012: 9.6.4
   - Local emergency organization, if provided
   (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 38.3.4.4)

2. For existing construction, notification of emergency forces is accomplished in accordance with NFPA 101-2012: 9.6.4 when the existing fire alarm system is replaced. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 39.3.4.4)