Prepublication Requirements

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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 NURSING CARE CENTER ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Effective January 1, 2023

Environment of Care (EC) Chapter

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

Key: ☐ indicates that documentation is required; ☐ indicates an identified risk area;
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, and other suppression system 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.

EC.02.05.01

The organization manages risks associated with its utility systems.

Element(s) of Performance for EC.02.05.01

7. In areas designed to control airborne contaminants (such as biological agents, gases, fumes, dust), the ventilation system provides appropriate pressure relationships, air-exchange rates, and filtration efficiencies.

   Note: Areas designed for control of airborne contaminants include spaces such as special procedure rooms, rooms for patients and residents diagnosed or suspected of having airborne communicable diseases (for example, pulmonary or laryngeal tuberculosis), patients and residents in "protective environment" rooms, pharmacies, and sterile supply rooms. For further information, see Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities, 2014 edition, administered by the Facility Guidelines Institute and published by the American Society for Healthcare Engineering (ASHE).

7. In areas designed to control airborne contaminants (such as biological agents, gases, fumes, dust), the ventilation system provides appropriate pressure relationships, air-exchange rates, and filtration efficiencies. For new health care facilities or altered, renovated, or modernized portions of existing ventilation systems or individual components (constructed or plans approved on or after July 5, 2016), heating, cooling, and ventilation are in accordance with NFPA 99-2012, which includes 2008 ASHRAE 170, or state design requirements if more stringent. Existing systems are in compliance with the ventilation standards that were in effect at the time the facility was constructed or last modified.

   Note: Areas designed for control of airborne contaminants include spaces such as special procedure rooms, rooms for patients and residents diagnosed or suspected of having airborne communicable diseases (for example, pulmonary or laryngeal tuberculosis), patients and residents in "protective environment" rooms, pharmacies, and sterile supply rooms.

Key: D indicates that documentation is required; R indicates an identified risk area;
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.

**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.

**Element(s) of Performance for LS.02.01.10**

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**Key:**  
- : indicates that documentation is required;  
- : indicates an identified risk area;
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.