Prepublication Requirements

- Issued September 21, 2022 -

**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 OFFICE-BASED SURGERY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM**

**Effective January 1, 2023**

Environment of Care (EC) Chapter

**EC.02.03.05**

The practice maintains fire safety equipment and fire safety building features.

Note: This standard does not require the practice to have the types of fire safety equipment and building features described below. 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 practice tests supervisory signal devices (except valve tamper switches). The completion date of the tests is documented.
   
   Note: For additional guidance on performing tests, see NFPA 72-2010: Table 14.4.5.

2. The practice 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**

Key: D indicates that documentation is required; R indicates an identified risk area;
The practice 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 operating rooms, special procedure rooms, delivery rooms for patients diagnosed with or suspected of having airborne communicable diseases (for example, pulmonary or laryngeal tuberculosis), patients in “protective environment” rooms (for example, those receiving bone marrow transplants), laboratories, 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 operating rooms, special procedure rooms, delivery rooms for patients diagnosed with or suspected of having airborne communicable diseases (for example, pulmonary or laryngeal tuberculosis), patients in “protective environment” rooms (for example, those receiving bone marrow transplants), laboratories, pharmacies, and sterile supply rooms.
23. Power strips in a patient care vicinity are only used for components of movable electrical equipment used for patient care that have been assembled by qualified personnel. These power strips meet UL 1363A or UL 60601-1. Power strips used outside of a patient care vicinity, but within the patient care room, meet UL 1363. In non–patient care rooms, power strips meet other UL standards. (For full text, refer to NFPA 99-2012: 10.2.3.6; 10.2.4; NFPA 70-2011: 400-8; 590.3(D); Tentative Interim Amendment [TIA] 12-5)

Note 1: The mounting of power strips to medical equipment assemblies or the reconfiguration of equipment powered by power strips in a medical equipment assembly must be performed by personnel who are qualified to make certain that this is done in accordance with NFPA 99-2012: 10.2.3.6.

Note 2: Per NFPA 99-2012: 3.3.138, patient care room is defined as any room of a health care facility wherein patients are intended to be examined or treated. Per NFPA 99-2012: 3.3.139, patient care vicinity is defined as a space, within a location intended for the examination and treatment of patients, extending 1.8 meters (6 feet) beyond the normal location of the bed, chair, table, treadmill, or other device that supports the patient during examination and treatment and extending vertically to 2.3 meters (7 feet, 6 inches) above the floor.

Note 3: In new facilities, the number of receptacles shall be in accordance with NFPA 99-2012: 6.3.2.2.6.2. If patient bed locations in existing health care facilities undergo renovation or a change in occupancy, the number of receptacles must be increased to meet the requirements of NFPA 99-2012: 6.3.2.2.6.2 to eliminate the need for power strips.

EC.02.06.01

The practice establishes and maintains a safe, functional environment.

Element(s) of Performance for EC.02.06.01

26. The practice keeps furnishings and non-medical equipment safe and in good repair.

Note: Examples of equipment include ice machines, refrigerators (not used for storage of medications or related supplies), and washing machines/dryers. Examples of furnishings include waiting room chairs and countertops.

Key: ◼ indicates that documentation is required; ◼ indicates an identified risk area;