Revisions Maintain Alignment with Corridor Door Requirement

The Joint Commission announces a revision to Life Safety (LS) Standard LS.02.01.30, Element of Performance (EP) 13 for deemed-status hospitals, critical access hospitals, and hospices providing inpatient care in their own facilities. Effective March 11, 2018, the revision is designed to maintain alignment with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requirements regarding latches for corridor doors.

CMS recently provided several clarifications to this requirement. CMS’s full position on prohibiting corridor door roller latches is covered in the January 10, 2003, Federal Register (which included a requirement for compliance by 2006) and the May 4, 2016, Federal Register (which reiterates the prohibition with the adoption of the 2012 edition of the National Fire Protection Association’s NFPA 101: Life Safety Code®). The Joint Commission recommends that organizations inspect their facilities immediately to identify any corridor doors that are not in compliance with these requirements and make modifications to bring them into compliance as soon as possible.

The revisions shown below (new text is underlined and deleted text has strikethrough) will be available on the Prepublication Standards page of The Joint Commission website. These changes will be published online in a March Edition release for the three above programs and in print in the 2018 Update 1 to the Comprehensive Accreditation Manuals for the hospital and home care programs. Questions may be directed to Kenneth A. Monroe, PE, MBA, CHC, PMP, senior associate director, Department of Engineering, The Joint Commission, at kmonroe@jointcommission.org.

References

*Life Safety Code® is a registered trademark of the National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA.
Revisions Regarding Requirement for Corridor Door Latching (continued)

**Element of Performance for LS.02.01.30**

13. In existing buildings, all corridor doors are constructed to resist the passage of smoke and constructed of 1 3/4-inch or thicker solid bonded wood core or constructed of material that resists fire for not less than 20 minutes, and the doors do not have ventilating louvers or transfer grills (with the exception of bathrooms, toilets, and sink closets that do not contain flammable or combustible materials). Positive latching hardware is required. Roller latches are prohibited. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 19.3.6.3.1; 19.3.6.3.2; 19.3.6.3.5)

**Note:** For existing doors, it is acceptable to use a device that keeps the door closed when a force of five pounds is applied to the edge of the door. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 19.3.6.3.1; 19.3.6.3.2; 19.3.6.3.5)

**Note 1:** For [organizations] that use Joint Commission accreditation for deemed status purposes:

Powered corridor doors are equipped with positive latching hardware unless the organization can verify that this equipment is not an option provided by the door manufacturer. In instances where positive latching hardware is not an available option provided by the manufacturer, the device used must be capable of keeping the door fully closed when a force of 5 lbf is applied at the latch edge and in any direction to a sliding or folding door, whether or not power is applied in accordance with NFPA 101-2012: 19.3.6.3.7.

**Note 2:** For [organizations] that use Joint Commission accreditation for deemed status purposes:

Doors to toilet rooms, bathrooms, shower rooms, sink closets, and similar auxiliary spaces that do not contain flammable or combustible materials are not required to have a device capable of keeping the door fully closed if a force of 5 lbf is applied at the latch edge. In these cases, roller latches are permissible.