



Acceptable Practices of Using Alcohol-Based Hand Rub

Standard LS.02.01.30, EP 5 requires:

Installation and use of alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) dispensers that are 95% or less alcohol content by volume are allowed in each smoke compartment as per NFPA 101-2012: 18/19.3.2.6.

Note 1: See *The Joint Commission's website* (http://www.jointcommission.org/life_safety_code_information_resources/) for alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) requirements.

Note 2: This element of performance reflects NFPA 101-2012: 18/19.3.2.6. For alternative guidelines on ABHR dispensers, see NFPA 101-2012: 8.7.3.1.

and....

Standard LS.03.01.30, EP 4 requires:

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Note 1: See *The Joint Commission's website* (http://www.jointcommission.org/life_safety_code_information_resources/) for alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) requirements.

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Background

Accredited Organizations are required by the National Patient Safety Goal NPSG.07.01.01 to comply World Health Organization (WHO) hand hygiene guidelines or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) hand hygiene guidelines.

According to hand hygiene guidelines, when hands have no visible soil, they may be disinfected with either an alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) or soap and water; however, when visible soiling is evident, soap and water must be used. Staff is encouraged to use ABHR when no soiling is present and hand hygiene guidelines recommend that all health care organizations make ABHR available for staff.

Several studies have confirmed the efficacy of ABHR and have demonstrated higher levels of compliance with hand hygiene guidelines when ABHR dispensers are located just outside of patients' rooms. In most organizations, accommodation of this kind would result in placement of dispensers in egress corridors.

This is acceptable to The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Acceptable Practices

The Joint Commission allows ABHR dispensers in corridors, provided the following conditions are met:

- Corridor is at least six feet wide
- ABHR does not exceed 95% alcohol
- Maximum individual dispenser capacity is 0.32 gallon of fluid (0.53 gallon in suites) or 18 ounces of NFPA Level 1-classified aerosols
- Dispensers have a minimum of four-feet horizontal spacing between them
- Dispensers are not installed within one inch of an ignition source
- If floor is carpeted, the building is fully sprinkler protected
- Operation of the dispenser complies with NFPA 101-2012: 18/19.3.2.6(11)
- ABHR is protected against inappropriate access
- Not more than an aggregate of 10 gallons of fluid or 135 ounces of aerosol are used in a single smoke compartment outside a storage cabinet, excluding one individual dispenser per room
- Storing more than five gallons of fluid in a single smoke compartment complies with NFPA 30

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