

October 30, 2009 - S&C: 10-04-LSC

Categorical Waivers Available:

Fire/smoke dampers inspected every 6 years - HOSPITALS ONLY

After due consideration of State survey agency findings and conclusions of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), we are issuing a categorical waiver pursuant to 42 CFR 482.41(b)(2) to permit a testing interval of 6 years rather than 4 years for the maintenance testing of fire and smoke dampers in hospital heating and ventilating systems, so long as the hospital's testing system conforms to the requirements under *2007 edition of NFPA 80: Standard for Fire Doors and Other Opening Protectives and the 2007 edition of NFPA 105: Standard for the Installation of Smoke Door Assemblies*. The 6-year testing interval shall commence on the date of the last documented damper test.

2007 NFPA 80

19.4* Periodic Inspection and Testing.

19.4.1 Each damper shall be tested and inspected 1 year after installation.

19.4.1.1 The test and inspection frequency shall then be every 4 years, except in hospitals, where the frequency shall be every 6 years.

2007 NFPA 105:

6.5 Periodic Inspection and Testing.

6.5.1 Smoke dampers for dedicated and non-dedicated smoke control systems shall be inspected and tested in accordance with NFPA 92A, Standard for Smoke-Control Systems Utilizing Barriers and Pressure Differences.

6.5.2 Each damper shall be tested and inspected one year after installation. The test and inspection frequency shall then be every 4 years, except in hospitals, where the frequency shall be every 6 years.