

Categorical Waivers Available to Health Care Facilities

In accordance with CMS S&C 13-58, dated August 30, 2013:

Providers that want to take advantage of the following categorical waivers must notify the fire inspector at the beginning of the fire inspection, and must be able to declare that the facility meets the appropriate requirements of the 2012 Life Safety Code(LSC) and associated standards.

1. **Medical Gas Master Alarms.** The 2005 edition of NFPA 99, referenced by the 2012 LSC, no longer requires master alarms in two locations.
2. **Openings in Exit Enclosures.** The 2012 LSC permits exit openings from unoccupied mechanical equipment into fire rated exit enclosures.
3. **Emergency Generators & Standby Power Systems.** The 2010 edition of NFPA 110 allows for reduced annual diesel-powered generator exercising.
4. **Doors.** This categorical waiver allows an expanded use of door locking arrangements where there is a demonstrated need for specialized protective measures for patient safety.
5. **Suites.** Additional provisions are permitted to further accommodate the use of suites by allowing less restrictive exits, and increasing sleeping room suite size up to 10,000 sq. ft.
6. **Extinguishing Requirements.** The 2011 edition of NFPA 25, Testing of Water-based Fire Protection Systems, reduces the frequency of testing requirements for certain water flow devices and motor-driven pump assemblies.
7. **Clean Waste & Patient Record Recycling Containers.** The 2012 LSC allows for containers used solely for these items to be a maximum capacity of 96 gallons.
8. **Projections into Corridor Widths:** Allows for wheeled equipment and **fixed** furniture to be in access corridors for means of egress.
9. **Cooking Facilities:** Allows for certain types of alternative type kitchen cooking arrangements.
10. **Fireplaces:** Allows for direct-vent gas fired fireplaces in patient sleeping room smoke compartments, and wood burning fireplaces in non-sleeping areas.
11. **Wall Decorations:** Allows for the installation of combustibile decorations on walls, doors and ceilings.