



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
*Aging and Long-Term Support Administration*  
*PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600*

February 7, 2025

**AL TSA: ALF #2025-004**  
**INCREASED REGULATORY FOCUS BY THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHALL**  
**(OSFM) – ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY (ALF)**

Dear Assisted Living Facility Administrator:

WA State assisted living facilities (ALFs) are responsible for ensuring consistent compliance with all applicable federal and state fire safety and life safety code (LSC) regulatory requirements.

OSFM has identified widespread fire alarm functionality concerns which place ALF residents and staff at potential risk. As a result, OSFM is increasing regulatory focus on existing semiannual regulatory requirements.

Current fire safety and LSC regulatory information, specific to ALFs is provided below.

WA State regulatory requirements for OSFM include:

- [Chapter 212-12 RCW](#) – Fire Marshal Standards; and
- [Chapter 43.44 RCW](#) – State Fire Protection.

OSFM uses regulations outlined in the following documents to complete fire safety regulatory tasks for ALF facilities:

- [2024 International Fire Code \(IFC\)](#); and
- 2019 edition of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 72
  - *This document is copyrighted and therefore must be obtained directly from the National Fire Protection Association.*

Current WA State fire safety regulatory guidance for ALF facilities includes:

- [RCW 18.20.130](#) – Fire protection – Duties of chief of the Washington state patrol,
- [WAC 212-12-020](#) – Additional assisted living facility requirements,
- [WAC 388-78A-2040](#) – Other requirements,
- [WAC 388-78A-2440](#) – Resident register,
- [WAC 388-78A-2851](#) – Applicability requirements for physical plant,
- [WAC 388-78A-2853](#) – New licenses and use of construction,
- [Chapter 13-ALF SOP](#) - Section 21 Fire Safety Code Deficiencies

Related References:

- [WSP Fire Inspection & Plan Review Site](#),
- [S&C: 16-29-LSC](#).
- [RCW 19.27.031](#) – State building code – Adoption – Conflicts – Opinions,
- [Chapter 51-50 WAC](#) – State building code adoption and amendment of the 2021 edition of the international building code,
- [Chapter 51-51 WAC](#) - State building code adoption and amendment of the 2021 edition of the international residential code,
- [Chapter 70.92 RCW](#) – Provisions in buildings for aged and handicapped persons.

ALTSA Provider Letter: **INCREASED REGULATORY FOCUS BY THE OFFICE OF THE STATE  
FIRE MARSHALL (OSFM) – ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES**

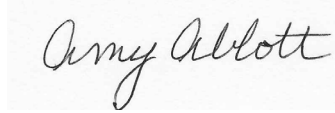
February 7, 2025

Page 2

For questions about Life Safety Code regulations, please contact Cozetta Christian, Chief Deputy State Fire Marshall at (360) 584-5796 or [Cozetta.Christian@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Cozetta.Christian@wsp.wa.gov).

Please submit policy questions to the RCS Policy Unit at: [rcspolicy@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:rcspolicy@dshs.wa.gov)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Abbott". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Amy Abbott, Director  
Residential Care Services

DSHS: *"Partnering with People"*