



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

October 20, 2016

ALTSA: ICF/IID #2016-008
CMS FINAL RULE FIRE PROTECTION GUIDELINES

Dear ICF/IID Superintendent or Administrator:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a [final rule](https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection) (<https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection>) to update health care facilities' fire protection guidelines.

The new guidelines apply to several residential settings including Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID).

The final rule eliminates all references to the previously adopted 2000 edition of the LSC, and requires providers and suppliers to comply with the 2012 LSC with certain modifications, and the 2012 HCFC excluding chapters 7, 8, 12, and 13 by the effective date of July 5, 2016.

Buildings constructed before July 5, 2016 can meet existing occupancy requirements. In addition, buildings that receive design approval or building permits for construction before July 5, 2016 can meet existing occupancy requirements. All other building construction must meet new occupancy requirements.

The final rule also continues to allow the ability of a State to request that its State Fire Safety requirements, imposed by State law, be used in lieu of the 2012 edition of the LSC and HCFC with CMS.

Some of the new requirements for ICF/IID include expanded sprinkler requirements to include habitable areas, closets, roofed porches, balconies and decks in new facilities. All attics must have a sprinkler system if they are used for living purposes, storage, or housing of fuel-fired equipment. If they are not used for these purposes, attics may have heat detection systems instead. Hazardous areas are to be separated from other parts of the building by smoke partitions. Existing ICF/IIDs must include certain fire alarm features when they choose to update their fire alarm systems.

ICF/IID inspections must be conducted in accordance with Appendix I of the SOM to determine compliance with 42 CFR 483.470 (j).

If you have questions about the rule changes, please contact the Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal at (360) 596-3906.

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

"Transforming Lives"