



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

January 31, 2025

**AL TSA: NH #2025-003**  
**INCREASED REGULATORY FOCUS BY THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**  
**(OSFM) – NURSING HOME**

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

WA State nursing homes (NH) 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 NH 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 nursing homes 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 and LSC regulatory tasks for nursing homes:

- Life Safety Code (LSC) and 2012 edition of the NFPA 99 - Health Care Facilities Code (HCFC); and
- NFPA 101A – Guide to Life Safety, 2013 edition (2013 FSES)  
*(These documents are copyrighted and therefore must be obtained directly from the National Fire Protection Association.)*

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) provides the following guidance materials related to fire safety and LSC requirements in nursing homes:

- [Life Safety Code & Health Care Facilities Code \(HCFC\) | CMS](#),
- [Life Safety Code & Health Care Facilities Code Requirements | CMS](#),
- [S&C: 17-15-LSC](#) – Revised 10/26/2022,
- [CMS-2786T](#),
- [CMS-2786R](#),
- [SOM, appendix I](#) - Survey Procedures for Life Safety Code Surveys,
- Questions about federal regulatory requirements can be forwarded to [QSOG\\_LifeSafetyCode@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:QSOG_LifeSafetyCode@cms.hhs.gov),

WA State fire safety regulatory guidance for LTC facilities includes:

- [RCW 74.42.570](#) – Health and safety requirements,
- [RCW 18.51.140](#) – Fire protection – Duties of chief of the Washington state patrol,
- [RCW 18.51.145](#) – Building inspections – Authority of chief of the Washington State Patrol,
- [WAC 388-97-2080](#) – Fire standards and approval, and other standards,
- [WAC 388-97-2200](#) – Emergency power,
- [WAC 388-97-3520](#) – State building code in new construction,

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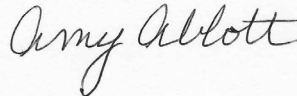
- [WAC 388-97-3540](#) – Electrical codes and standards in new construction,
- [WAC 388-97-3560](#) – Elevator codes in new construction,
- [WAC 388-97-3580](#) – Local codes and ordinances in new construction,

Related References:

- [WSP Fire Inspection & Plan Review Site](#),
- [S&C: 16-29-LSC](#),
- [Section 1819\(d\) of the Social Security Act](#)
- [81 FR 26872](#), - effective July 5, 2016,
- [87 CFR 47502 – August 3, 2022](#),
- [42 CFR 483.70](#),
- [42 CFR 483.90\(a\) & \(b\)](#),
- [42 CFR 403.742 – Religious Nonmedical Health Care Institutions \(RNHCI\)](#),
- [42 CFR 403.744 – RNHCI](#),
- [42 CFR 403.745 – RNHCI](#),
- [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.

If you have any questions, please contact Jodi Lamoreaux, NH Policy Program Manager, at [RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,



Amy Abbott, Director  
Residential Care Services

DSHS: *“Partnering with People”*