

2000 LIFE SAFETY CODE®

FIELD GUIDE

for Health Care Facilities

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Module 1

Code *Background and Organization*



Critical issues

Development of the *Life Safety Code*®

- The *Code* dates back to early 1900s.
- The *Code* is based in part on lessons learned from significant fires.
- The *Code* is a consensus document published by NFPA.
 - The NFPA staff doesn't write the *Code*, but provides the “vehicle” through which the *Code* is developed.
 - Various committees are responsible for portions of the *Code*.

MODULE 1—CODE BACKGROUND AND ORGANIZATION

- The committees are composed of representatives of differing interests, which provide a “balanced” committee.
 - Health Care Committee members, for example, are
 - Fire marshals
 - Consultants
 - Health care providers
 - Governmental agencies (Veterans Administration and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [CMS])
 - Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)
 - American Hospital Association (and other associations)
 - Manufacturers
 - American Institute of Architects
 - Insurance agents
- Anybody can submit proposed changes to the *Life Safety Code*.
- Membership of NFPA votes at meetings to approve or reject proposals.
- NFPA Standards Council oversees the process.

Enforcement of the Code

- Since the Code is written by a nongovernmental agency (NFPA), application (enforcement) is not mandatory unless legally adopted by federal, state, county, or local government.
- CMS (formerly HCFA) and/or JCAHO may require compliance for aid or accreditation.
- The Code is a nationally recognized standard often cited in litigation.

– Compliance is voluntary.

Arrangement of Code

Three major sections:

I. Fundamental chapters (1–11) apply to all occupancies.

1 *Administration*

2 *Mandatory References* (formerly Chapter 33)

Existing installations that do not comply with all the requirements of the mandatory references may continue in service if approved by the authority having jurisdiction and if there is no serious hazard to life safety presented by the deficiency.

3 *Definitions*

4 *General* (formerly part of Chapter 1 and Chapter 2)

5 *Performance-Based Option* (new chapter)

MODULE 1—CODE BACKGROUND AND ORGANIZATION

- 6 *Classification of Occupancy and Hazard of Contents* (formerly Chapter 4)
- 7 *Means of Egress* (formerly Chapter 5)
- 8 *Features of Fire Protection* (formerly Chapter 6)
- 9 *Building Service & Fire Protection Equipment* (formerly Chapter 7)
- 10 *Interior Finish, Contents, and Furnishings* (formerly Section 6-5)
- 11 *Special Structures and High-Rise Buildings* (formerly Chapter 32)

II. Occupancy chapters (12–42)

Requirements based on use (occupancy) of a building
Most occupancies have separate chapters for “new” and “existing” buildings.

- 12 & 13 *Assembly Occupancies* (formerly Chapters 8 & 9)
- 14 & 15 *Educational Occupancies* (formerly Chapters 10 & 11)
- 16 & 17 *Day-Care Occupancies* (formerly Chapters 30 & 31)
- 18 & 19 *Health Care Occupancies* (formerly Chapters 12 & 13)
- 20 & 21 *Ambulatory Health Care Occupancies* (formerly Sections 12-6 & 13-6)
- 22 & 23 *Detention and Correctional Occupancies* (formerly Chapters 14 & 15)

- 24 *One- and Two-Family Occupancies* (formerly Chapter 21)
- 25 *Reserved for Future Use*
- 26 *Lodging and Rooming Houses* (formerly Chapter 20)
- 27 *Reserved for Future Use*
- 28 & 29 *Hotels & Dormitories* (formerly Chapters 16 & 17)
- 30 & 31 *Apartment Buildings* (formerly Chapters 18 & 19)
- 32 & 33 *Residential Board and Care Occupancies* (formerly Chapters 22 & 23)
- 34 & 35 *Reserved for Future Use*
- 36 & 37 *Mercantile Occupancies* (formerly Chapters 24 & 25)
- 38 & 39 *Business Occupancies* (formerly Chapters 26 & 27)
- 40 *Industrial Occupancies* (formerly Chapter 28)
- 41 *Reserved for Future Use*
- 42 *Storage Occupancies* (formerly Chapter 29)

III. Annexes

- Annex A *Explanatory Material* (This is not a part of the *Code* and should not be enforced as such.)

- Annex B *Nonmandatory Referenced Publications*

(Publications reference Annex A and therefore are not mandatory.)

- The *Code* also contains an index.

Use of Code

- Changes to the *Code* from previous edition are marked with a vertical bar:
 - Editorial changes are not indicated.
- An asterisk (*) following the *Code* section indicates that explanatory materials are contained in Annex A.
- Most requirements in “fundamental” chapters (1–11) apply to all occupancies.
 - Some fundamental requirements apply only where required by another section and are indicated by “where required by Chapters 12–42.”
- Some fundamental requirements/exceptions apply only if required/permitted by the occupancy chapters, as indicated by “where permitted by Chapters 12–42.”
- Some fundamental exceptions are permitted unless specifically prohibited by the occupancy chapters, as indicated by “unless prohibited by Chapters 12–42.”

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