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Part I

General Overview and Code Requirements

Part I of this Workbook & Study Guide introduces the Life Safety Code®, its background, organization, and application. It then presents some of the basic requirements and provisions related to the special definitions and classifications used in the Code, as well as preliminary requirements for means of egress and construction compartmentation.

Chapters 1 through 6 of the Code are covered in Part I. However, portions of Chapter 8, Features of Fire Protection, related to construction compartmentation are presented next, since they provide basic information that is required before means of egress (Chapter 7 of the Code) can be discussed. In particular, a basic understanding of fire resistive construction is required before the protection (enclosure) of exits can be discussed.

Only a small portion of Chapters 7 and 8 of the Life Safety Code are presented in Part I of this Workbook & Study Guide. All other requirements found in these chapters will be presented as they are needed for understanding the requirements that apply to health care occupancies.

Also, Chapter 9, Building Service and Fire Protection Equipment, is not presented by itself in Part I of this Workbook & Study Guide, as all necessary requirements applicable to health care facilities will be introduced as needed in Part II.
Module 1

Code Background and Organization

At the conclusion of this module, you should be able to do the following:

- Discuss the history and development of the Life Safety Code®
- Describe the major sections and structure of the Code and their importance
- Explain the importance of a vertical bar or asterisk within Code requirements
- Demonstrate the importance of “where permitted,” “where required,” and “unless prohibited” definitions within Code requirements
- Indicate the application of, and important differences between, the “mandatory references” in Chapter 2 and Annex B
- Discuss the intent and limitations of the “explanatory materials” within Annex A of the Code

Introduction

Before attempting to learn how to interpret and apply the Life Safety Code, it is helpful to understand its history, development, and arrangement. This module introduces you to these subjects so that you may better understand the basics of the Life Safety Code. By necessity, the arrangement of this module (as well as Modules 2 and 3) is slightly different from the rest of the workbook since it provides a general overview and introduction to the Life Safety Code. Also, the section “What’s different for new construction?” does not appear in this module. Starting with Module 4, each module addresses one specific subject in greater detail. The following recommended readings will move you around the Code a bit, but they are necessary to introduce you to the overall arrangement of the Life Safety Code. When asked to “briefly review” a section, you need only skim the section to gain an appreciation for its
content. However, when asked to “read” a section, carefully review that material. Do not just quickly skim over it.

Code review

✓ Read the introductory materials, including “To the User” on pages 1–3.
✓ Briefly review the committee memberships on pages 4–17.
✓ Review the Health Care Committee information on page 13, noting the organizations represented.
✓ Briefly review the Table of Contents on pages 18–22.
✓ Read the introductory material to Chapter 2, Mandatory References, on page 24 of the Code.
✓ Read the introductory material to Annex A, Explanatory Material, on page 264 of the Code.
✓ Read the introductory material to Annex B, Referenced Publications, on page 347 of the Code.
✓ Note the presence of an “Index” on pages 349–387 of the Code.
✓ Briefly review the information regarding the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Codes and Standards development process following the Index.

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.
  – 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)
      - 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)
   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)
Part I: General Overview and Code Requirements

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.”
**Significant changes**

The 1994 edition of the *Life Safety Code* contained many new requirements and changes to the means of egress provisions in order to make the *Code* substantially agree with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The 1997 edition of the *Code* eliminated the *Operating Features* chapter and moved the requirements into each of the occupancy chapters. For example, 31-4 previously contained the operating features for health care facilities. However, 12-7 and 13-7 (now 18.7 and 19.7) now contain these requirements. Also, day-care facilities moved into their own chapters (30 and 31). The educational occupancy chapters previously contained day-care facilities subsections.

There are two major changes in the 2000 edition of the *Code*, including a brand new chapter on the performance-based option. Module 4 discusses this new chapter. The second change, and for the health care industry the change with the biggest nontechnical impact, is a **total reorganization** of the *Code*. This is the first time since 1981 that the *Code* significantly revises the chapter organization. Table 1.1 provides a cross-reference between the 1997 and 2000 editions (this is very similar for 1985 to 2000, but with some minor differences). This reorganization was made to comply with the new *NFPA Manual of Style* and to provide room for the new chapter on the performance-based option. Since the *Code* was going to have to be renumbered for those two reasons, the committee took the opportunity to move day-care occupancies back to follow educational occupancies, where it belongs. In addition, the committee moved ambulatory health care out of the *Health Care* chapter into its own chapters. The committee reordered the residential occupancies in order of increasing size (one- and two-family dwellings, followed by lodging and rooming houses and hotels). Strategic chapters were reserved for future use in order to prevent renumbering of chapters in the near future.

Numerous small technical changes have been made to the *Code*. There is a series of small changes in the Existing Health Care chapter and related chapters to make using the 2000 edition of the *Code* less onerous on health care facilities that were formerly regulated under the 1985 and older editions of the *Code*. Each of the individual modules throughout this *Workbook & Study Guide* addresses specific changes to particular *Code* requirements. See Tables 1.1 and 1.2 on the following pages for more information.
## Table 1.1

### Life Safety Code®—NFPA 101
#### 2000 Edition Reorganization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>1997 Code Location</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Administration</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>Old Chapter 1 now Chapter 1 and 4 – Split due to New NFPA policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Mandatory References</td>
<td>Chapter 33</td>
<td>New NFPA policy: All mandatory references in Ch 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Definitions</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>All definitions now here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 General</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Performance-Based Option</td>
<td>New Chapter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Classification of Occupancy and Hazard of Contents</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Means of Egress</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Features of Fire Protection</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>Sections 6-5 and 6-6 moved out</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Building Service and Fire Protection Equipment</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Interior Finish, Contents, and Furnishings</td>
<td>Sections 6-5 and 6-6</td>
<td>Material moved into a chapter on their own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Special Structures and High-Rise Buildings</td>
<td>Chapter 32 and NFPA 102</td>
<td>Moved up front to be more obvious as a base chapter. Much material from NFPA 102 added</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 &amp; 13 Assembly Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapters 8 &amp; 9 and NFPA 102</td>
<td>Incorporates significant material from NFPA 102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 &amp; 15 Educational Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapters 10 &amp; 11</td>
<td>Day Care moved out in 1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 &amp; 17 Day-Care Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapters 30 &amp; 31</td>
<td>Formerly part of Educational, moved to Ch 30 &amp; 31 in 1997, put back near educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 &amp; 19 Health Care Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapters 12 &amp; 13</td>
<td>Ambulatory Health Care moved out to separate chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 &amp; 21 Ambulatory Health Care Occupancies</td>
<td>Sections 12-6 and 13-6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 &amp; 23 Detention and Correctional Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapters 14 &amp; 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 One- and Two-Family Dwellings</td>
<td>Chapter 21</td>
<td>Moved to the beginning of the residential occupancies since it forms the basics for them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Reserved</td>
<td></td>
<td>For possible split of Ch. 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Lodging and Rooming Houses</td>
<td>Chapter 20</td>
<td>Moved after one- and two-family dwellings since it is based on that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Reserved</td>
<td></td>
<td>For possible split of Ch. 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 &amp; 29 Hotels &amp; Dormitories</td>
<td>Chapters 16 &amp; 17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 &amp; 31 Apartment Buildings</td>
<td>Chapters 18 &amp; 19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 &amp; 33 Residential Board And Care Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapters 22 &amp; 23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34 &amp; 35 Reserved</td>
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<td>Reserved for future use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 &amp; 37 Mercantile Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapters 24 &amp; 25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38 &amp; 39 Business Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapters 26 &amp; 27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 Industrial Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapter 28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 Reserved</td>
<td></td>
<td>For possible split of Ch 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42 Storage Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapter 29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annex B Nonmandatory Referenced Publications</td>
<td>Appendix B</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Chapter 1997 Code</td>
<td>Chapter 2000 Code</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 1 General</td>
<td>Chapter 1 Administration</td>
<td>Material split into two chapters due to new NFPA Manual of Style</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 2 Fundamental Requirements</td>
<td>Section 4.5</td>
<td>Rewritten and moved into Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 3 Definitions</td>
<td>Chapter 3 Definitions</td>
<td>All definitions now here</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 4 Classification of Occupancy and Hazard of Contents</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>New Chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 5 Means of Egress</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 6 Features of Fire Protection</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>Sections 6-5 and 6-6 moved to the new Chapter 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 7 Building Service &amp; Fire Protection Equipment</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 8 &amp; 9 Assembly Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapters 12 &amp; 13</td>
<td>Also incorporates significant material from NFPA 102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapters 10 &amp; 11 Educational Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapters 14 &amp; 15</td>
<td>Day Care moved out of chapters in 1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapters 12 &amp; 13 Health Care Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapters 18 &amp; 19</td>
<td>Ambulatory health care moved out of chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sections 12-6 &amp; 13-6 Ambulatory Health Care</td>
<td>Chapters 20 &amp; 21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapters 14 &amp; 15 Detention &amp; Correctional Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapters 22 &amp; 23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapters 16 &amp; 17 Hotels &amp; Dormitories</td>
<td>Chapters 28 &amp; 29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapters 18 &amp; 19 Apartment Buildings</td>
<td>Chapters 30 &amp; 31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 20 Lodging &amp; Rooming Houses</td>
<td>Chapter 26</td>
<td>Moved after one- and two-family dwellings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 21 One- and Two-Family Dwellings</td>
<td>Chapter 27</td>
<td>New reserved chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 22 &amp; 23 Residential Board &amp; Care Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapters 32 &amp; 33</td>
<td>New reserved chapter</td>
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<td>Chapters 24 &amp; 25 Mercantile Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapters 34 &amp; 35</td>
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<td>Chapters 26 &amp; 27 Business Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapters 36 &amp; 37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 28 Industrial Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapter 40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 29 Storage Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapter 41</td>
<td>New reserved chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapters 30 &amp; 31 Day-Care Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapters 16 &amp; 17</td>
<td>Moved back after Educational Occupancies – These used to be part of Educational</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 32 Special Structures &amp; High-Rise Buildings</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
<td>Moved into the “base chapter” section. Material from NFPA 102 added</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 33 Referenced Publications</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>NFPA Manual of Style required the move</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix A</td>
<td>Annex A</td>
<td>NFPA Manual of Style renames all Appendices to Annexes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix B</td>
<td>Annex B</td>
<td>Same reason as Annex A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The *Life Safety Code*, otherwise known as NFPA 101, is one of many documents the National Fire Protection Association promulgates. NFPA is a nonprofit technical and educational organization founded in 1896. It is dedicated to protecting people, property, and the environment from the effects of fire. NFPA is not a governmental agency but an organization with more than 75,000 members worldwide. Membership in NFPA is open to anyone with an interest in fire safety. Further information on NFPA and membership is available from NFPA at 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101, or by calling 800/344-3555. NFPA 101 and *Life Safety Code* are registered trademarks of the National Fire Protection Association, Inc.

One of NFPA’s many functions, and the reason for which it was originally formed, is the development and writing of codes and standards, of which the *Life Safety Code* is one of the most widely used. All of NFPA’s more than 310 codes and standards are consensus documents written by committees of volunteers drawn from a wide variety of disciplines with an interest in fire safety. For example, the various committees that write the *Life Safety Code* consist of architects, fire protection engineers, fire marshals, building officials, building owners, researchers, manufacturers, and others. NFPA committees are balanced so that no category of membership has control of more than one-third of the votes. In addition, it takes a two-thirds vote to change a requirement in a document. This assures balance and consensus.

Anybody can submit changes to a code or standard or can comment on changes proposed by others. NFPA membership votes on all changes to the various documents at either the World Safety Conference and Exposition (May) or the fall Education Conference (November) meetings. Thus everybody, not just committee members or NFPA members, can participate in the process. Further information on the NFPA standards writing process is available from the secretary of the Standards Council at NFPA.


The *Life Safety Code* is a unique document in that it is totally dedicated to the protection of people from fire and similar emergencies. Property protection is not a consideration in the Code’s develop-
ment, although compliance with the Code will often improve property protection as well. The Code applies to existing buildings as well as new construction.

Since the Life Safety Code is written by a nongovernmental agency, its application is not mandatory unless specifically referenced by a statute or regulation. Almost every state refers to it to some extent as a mandatory standard. In many states, this reference is limited to certain occupancies—for example, health care. Most states exempt one- and two-family dwellings, but approximately half of the states mandate the Code for many, if not all, occupancies. Some federal agencies mandate the Life Safety Code for financial aid. For example, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), formerly known as the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) requires that a facility meet the Life Safety Code for Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement. Virtually all federal agencies require compliance for their buildings. Furthermore, the Life Safety Code is an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard. Thus, it is often used in civil litigation to establish the actions of a prudent person. For that reason, it should be followed regardless of whether local or state authorities have adopted it.

With respect to health care facilities, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) requires that all JCAHO-accredited facilities be designed and maintained in accordance with the Life Safety Code. As a result, the JCAHO Statement of Conditions™ is based on the Life Safety Code.

The Code essentially consists of three major parts. Chapters 1–11 constitute the first part and are often referred to as the “fundamental” chapters, or the “basic” or “core” chapters. These chapters form the basic building blocks of the rest of the Code. It is important to understand these core chapters. The Code cannot be properly applied without an understanding of the basics.

Chapter 2 (formerly Chapter 33) provides a list of documents to which compliance is mandatory to the extent called for in the Code. For example, NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Automatic Sprinklers, is listed in Chapter 2. This does not mean that all buildings must be sprinklered, but that when a sprinkler system is required, the referenced edition of NFPA 13 must be used. By putting the editions of all referenced documents in one location, it is easier for adopting jurisdictions to revise the list if necessary.

The new Chapter 5 on the performance-based option is one of the “fundaments” chapters. If the performance-based option is used, only Chapters 1–5 of the Code are referenced. The rest of the Code is not applicable. Although the performance-based option is new to the Life Safety Code, the concept has been followed elsewhere for several years, especially in Australia and New Zealand. Module 4 of this workbook discusses this concept.
**Chapter 11 (formerly Chapter 32) provides requirements for “special structures” and “high-rise buildings.” If your facility includes a building that is considered a special structure or a high-rise building under the *Life Safety Code*, the requirements of Chapter 11 will be of importance.

The second part is the largest section of the *Code* and consists of the occupancy chapters (Chapters 12–42). Most occupancies have two chapters: one for “new” and one for “existing.” For example, Chapter 18, *New Health Care Occupancies*, pairs with Chapter 19, *Existing Health Care Occupancies*. Note that the even-numbered chapter is for new construction and the odd-numbered chapter is for existing buildings. This is true of all occupancies covered in two chapters. However, there are several occupancies for which a single chapter covers both “new” and “existing,” including Chapter 40 (formerly Chapter 28), *Industrial Occupancies*, and Chapter 42 (formerly Chapter 29), *Storage Occupancies*.

The annexes (A and B) comprise what might be considered the third part of the *Code*. (Annexes were formerly referred to as appendices.) Annex A lists supplemental information that clarifies and expands on the *Code*. Whenever a *Code* passage includes Annex A material, reviewing it can be helpful, as it could contain useful information and examples of the intent and application of the *Code*. Annex B is similar to Chapter 2, but it lists the documents that are not mandatory standards. This annex contains a list of NFPA publications as well as numerous other references that can be used to further understand and apply the requirements of the *Life Safety Code*. Often a document is listed in both Chapter 2 and Annex B. This is not an error; a document can be referenced as “mandatory” in the body of the *Code* and as a “nonmandatory” reference in Annex B.

The typical paragraph number in the *Code* consists of a chapter number followed by a series of numbers. For example: 7.2.1.4.1*

This paragraph is in Chapter 7, Section 7.2, Subsection 7.2.1 and is a subparagraph to 7.2.1.4. Note that the decimal is important in this scheme, since 7.1.2.1 is in a significantly different location from 7.12.1. The asterisk (*) tells us that there is additional information in Annex A regarding the paragraph. Looking in Annex A, one will find A.7.2.1.4.1. Note that the same paragraph number is used, but an “A” prefaces the chapter number.

A vertical bar in the margin alongside the text informs the reader that there has been a change at this point in the *Code* since the last edition. This change may be revised text, new text, or deleted text. For example, see Subsection 4.2, *Objectives*, which is revised in the 2000 edition. The history of the *Code* referred to earlier contains some of the significant changes over the last few editions.
The organization of all the occupancy chapters is basically the same. This is done to make the Code easier to use, since most people must deal with more than one occupancy. The basic organization of an occupancy chapter is as follows:

**Section 1: General**
- 1.1 Application {general, additions, renovations, construction, etc.} (Chapter 4 and Section 6.1)
- 1.2 Mixed Occupancies (6.1.14)
- 1.3 Special Definitions {references only, no more definitions outside Chapter 3} (Chapter 3)
- 1.4 Classification of Occupancy (6.1)
- 1.5 Classification of Hazard of Contents (6.2)
- 1.6 Minimum Construction Requirements (8.2.1)
- 1.7 Occupant Load {factors now in Chapter 7} (7.3)

**Section 2: Means of Egress**
- 2.1 General (Chapter 7)
- 2.2 Means of Egress Components (7.2)
  - 2.2.1 Doors (7.2.1)
  - 2.2.2 Stairs (7.2.2)
  - 2.2.3 Smokeproof Enclosures (7.2.3)
  - 2.2.4 Horizontal Exits (7.2.4)
  - 2.2.5 Ramps (7.2.5)
  - 2.2.6 Exit Passageways (7.2.6)
  - 2.2.7 Escalators and Moving Walks for existing if permitted (7.2.7)
  - 2.2.8 Fire Escape Stairs for existing if permitted (7.2.8)
  - 2.2.9 Fire Escape Ladders if permitted (7.2.9)
  - 2.2.10 Slide Escapes if permitted {very few occupancies permit} (7.2.10)
  - 2.2.11 Alternating tread devices if permitted (7.2.11)
  - 2.2.12 Areas of Refuge (7.2.12)
  - 2.2.13 Elevators {only from towers and under very limited conditions} (7.2.13)
- 2.3 Capacity of Means of Egress (7.3)
- 2.4 Number of Means of Egress (7.4)
- 2.5 Arrangement of Means of Egress (7.5)
- 2.6 Travel Distance (7.6)
- 2.7 Discharge from Exits (7.7)
- 2.8 Illumination of Means of Egress (7.8)
__2.9 Emergency Lighting (7.9)
__2.10 Marking of Means of Egress (7.10)
__2.11 Special Egress Provisions {guards for assembly balconies, rescue windows, detention locking}\n(Note that there are no specific references to 7.11, “Special Provisions for Occupancies with High Hazard Contents,” or to 7.12, “Mechanical Equipment Rooms, Boiler Rooms, and Furnace Rooms.” These sections are required even without occupancy chapter reference.)

Section 3: Protection
__3.1 Protection of Vertical Openings (8.2.5)
__3.2 Protection from Hazards (8.4) {Note that 8.4 does not mandate occupancy chapter reference; most occupancy chapters reference it and add additional information.}
__3.3 Interior Finish (10.2) {Note that there are provisions in 10.2 that are independent of occupancy chapter reference.}
__3.4 Detection, Alarm, and Communication Systems (9.6)
__3.5 Extinguishment Requirements (9.7)
__3.6 Corridors
__3.7 Subdivision of Building Spaces {smoke compartments} (8.3)
__3.8 Special Protection Features {ventilation windows, detention resident housing}

Section 4: Special Provisions (Vary by occupancy)
Windowless (and/or underground) Buildings (11.7) (Note: Chapter 11, except 11.8 on high-rise, does not require occupancy chapter reference for enforcement.)
High-Rise Buildings (11.8), Stages and Platforms, Projection Booths, Malls

Section 5: Building Services
__5.1 Utilities (9.1)
__5.2 HVAC Systems (9.2)
__5.3 Elevators, Escalators, and Conveyors (9.4)
__5.4 Rubbish Chutes, Incinerators, and Laundry Chutes (9.5)
(Note that sections 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, and 9.4 are mandatory regardless of occupancy chapter reference.)

Section 6: Special Occupancy Provisions
{Section is reserved in most occupancy chapters. Used for special occupancies. Previously, Section 6 of the health care chapters contained ambulatory health care. It is used by day care for day-care
Section 7: Operating Features

Most occupancy chapters follow this outline. Some occupancies, such as board and care, modify it. In that case, the chapter will still follow the same organization, but the numbering can be affected. (See Table 1.3 for a listing of the correlation between paragraph numbering of occupancy chapters.)

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and core chapters.)

Note that Chapter 7 and Section 2 of each occupancy chapter are parallel in their numbering system. For example, Subsection _2.6 contains the travel distance limitations in the occupancy chapters, while Section 7.6 contains the information relative to travel distance in Chapter 7. (The subsection number in the occupancy chapter corresponds to the section number in Chapter 7.)

Also, Section 7 of each occupancy chapter, Operating Features, contains the requirements that prior to 1997 were contained in the former Chapter 31, Operating Features.
Which code takes precedence over the other: NFPA 101 (used by the JCAHO) or my local building and fire code?

Unfortunately, they both do. Generally, you will have to comply with the specific requirements of each. To gain and keep JCAHO accreditation, you are required to comply with the requirements of the Life Safety Code, NFPA 101. However, to legally occupy a building within your legal jurisdiction (city, state, etc.), you are typically required by law to comply with those locally adopted and enforced codes and standards that may or may not include the Life Safety Code. Fortunately, most of the requirements are either the same or are heading in the same direction. Most codes and standards, including the Life Safety Code, provide minimum requirements (see NFPA 101, 1.3.1). All too often these are thought to be optimum levels of protection, but they are not.
Module 1 Quiz

1. T F The *Life Safety Code* has been based in part on lessons learned from actual fires.


3. T F Chapters 1–11 are generally called the “fundamental” chapters, and all the requirements in those chapters apply to all occupancies.

4. T F Different occupancies have different inherent risks, so the *Life Safety Code* contains requirements based on a building’s use (occupancy).

5. T F The *Life Safety Code* is enforced as federal law on all buildings.

6. T F An asterisk next to a Code requirement indicates a change to the Code requirement from the previous edition, and a vertical bar indicates that there is explanatory material on that subject in Annex A.

7. T F The *Code* generally contains four main sections: fundamental requirements, occupancy-specific requirements, performance-based option, and annexes.

8. T F All the occupancy chapters (12–42) tend to follow the same structure with regard to the arrangement of the requirements.

9. T F The materials in Annex A are considered part of the Code and should be enforced as such.

10. T F Chapter 2 allows existing installations that do not comply with the requirements of the mandatory references to remain in service if approved by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) and if the deficiency presents no serious hazard to life safety.

    Find the answers in Addendum A of this workbook.
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