
Created with facility managers, plant operations professionals, directors of engineering, and architects in mind, this comprehensive study guide is the only resource that provides a detailed explanation of the requirements of the Life Safety Code as they specifically apply to healthcare and related occupancies.

Benefits:
- In-depth coverage of the 2012 Code changes in one easy-to-use location
- Up-to-date information from experts in the field intimately familiar with both the 2000 and 2012 versions of the Code
- Thorough analysis of the changes and what you need to do to comply
- Preparation for Life Safety Code surveys

Pair this workbook with The New Life Safety Code® Field Guide for Healthcare Facilities, a small, portable guide that gives you a quick reference for key issues—perfect to take with you when reviewing your facility!
The New LIFE SAFETY CODE®

Workbook and Study Guide for Healthcare Facilities
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About the Editors

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How to Use This Workbook and Study Guide

Introduction

The most important feature of this self-study program is your active use of the Life Safety Code® (referred to in this book as the “Code”). You should use the Workbook & Study Guide side by side with the Code. The purpose of this program is to help you develop proficiency in the use of the Code with respect to healthcare occupancies.

Effective use of the Code requires skill in navigating through it. Many times the answer to a Code-based question (requirement) can be quickly found if you know where to look. A second critical skill involves “interpreting” the Code—that is, understanding the real purpose of a specific requirement.

Therefore, the primary goals of this self-study program include the following:
❖ Providing the user with an understanding of the arrangement and use of the Code
❖ Providing the user with an understanding of the intent of the Code

Module-Based Learning

The Workbook & Study Guide is arranged into modules that focus on specific subject areas. This approach optimizes learning by restricting the amount of information you are required to understand at one time. It also provides structured stopping points, or breaks, throughout the program.

The Workbook & Study Guide does not simply go from the front cover to the back cover of the Code. Rather, the program is structured from a “Code-use” standpoint. After the Code addresses fundamental issues, it is then structured around occupancy chapters while referring back to the fundamental requirements of the base chapters. Since these chapters set forth the requirements for a given occupancy (such as healthcare) and do not ask the user to apply the Code “front to back,” this book is structured the same way.
How to Use This Workbook and Study Guide

1. Subject & objectives are introduced
2. Code requirements are read
3. Critical issues are highlighted
4. New vs. existing compared
5. Significant changes presented
6. Commentary & drawings
7. Additional readings
8. Quizzes test learning

- Understand section? 
  - Yes: Advance to next module
  - No: Repeat module as needed
Arrangement of the Workbook & Study Guide

To help you accomplish the goals of this program, each module within the Workbook & Study Guide is arranged as described below. Icons make the progression through each module clearer.

Introduction

This section introduces the general subject of study and its objectives.

Code review

This section directs you to your copy of the Code to read the requirements for a given subject. Note that due to the use of the 2012 edition of the Code in many facilities and the waivers permitted by the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS), references for both the 2000 edition and the 2012 edition of the Code have been provided.

Critical issues

This section highlights the Code requirements you have just reviewed. If the critical issues presented are not clear, review those sections of the Code again.

What's different for new construction?

In general, the Workbook & Study Guide focuses on requirements for existing healthcare facilities. It addresses requirements for new healthcare facilities by highlighting the important differences between the two sets of requirements.

Significant changes

This section reviews the significant changes from the 2000 edition of the Code to the 2003, 2006, 2009, and newest additions to the 2012 Code. These changes affect healthcare facility design and operation. Again, due to the use of the 2012 edition of the Code in many facilities and the waivers permitted by CMS, references for both the 2000 edition and the 2012 edition of the Code have been provided.

Commentary

The authors provide additional commentary covering frequently misunderstood areas of the Code. The Workbook & Study Guide provides numerous drawings and tables to assist in explaining complex issues.
How to Use This Workbook and Study Guide

This section provides additional readings in the form of articles either written by experts in the field of healthcare life safety, fire protection, and Code compliance or based on interviews with such experts. These additional resources provide valuable insight into the requirements and interpretations of the Code.

Questions from the field

Professionals just like you pose real-life questions, which this book’s authors address. Try answering the questions yourself before reading the answers provided here.

Quiz

Each module ends with a quiz to test your knowledge of the information you’ve just reviewed. Find the answers in Addendum A of this workbook. If some of your answers were incorrect, you may want to review certain modules before proceeding to the next one.

Tips on Getting the Most From This Program

It is critical that you read everything the Workbook & Study Guide recommends. Many times the answer to a Code-based question is right in front of you, but if you hastily skim over an important section, you could miss it. Also, the articles provide in-depth analyses and reviews of important and complex Code issues. Don’t skip them.

You will benefit from this program by continually asking yourself, “Why is this in the Code?” In other words, don’t just read a Code requirement and take it at face value. Take a moment to think about why something is important. Sometimes this will be obvious (e.g., “Why are means of egress required to be illuminated?”). However, in some cases, the purpose of Code requirements or allowances are not clear, so remembering why a given subject is addressed in the Code—or even whether the Code addresses it at all—becomes difficult (e.g., “Why is the use of ‘suites’ so useful within healthcare occupancies?”). By questioning each requirement and ultimately understanding it, you will find that you retain far more from the Code, making the learning process much more effective. Remember, the benefits that you gain from self-study programs are directly related to the amount of effort you put into them.
Part I

**General Overview and Code Requirements**

Part I of this *Workbook & Study Guide* introduces the *Life Safety Code®* and 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, construction, and 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 and 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 *Code* are presented in Part I. All other requirements found in these chapters will be presented as necessary to understand the requirements that apply to healthcare occupancies.

Also, Chapter 9, Building Service and Fire Protection Equipment, is not presented by itself in Part I, as all necessary requirements applicable to healthcare 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 Code. By necessity, the arrangement of this module (as well as Modules 2, 3 and 4) is slightly different from the rest of the workbook since it provides a general overview and introduction to the Code. Also, the section “What’s Different for New Construction?” does not appear in this module. Starting with Module 5 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 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 pp. 1–3.
✔ Briefly review the committee memberships on pp. 4–17.
✔ Review the Healthcare Committee information on p. 13, noting the organizations represented.
✔ Briefly review the Table of Contents on pp. 18–22.
✔ Read the introductory material to Chapter 2, Mandatory References, on p. 24 of the Code.
✔ Read the introductory material to Annex A, Explanatory Material, on p. 264 of the Code.
✔ Note the presence of an “Index” on pp. 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 Code

❖ The Code dates back to the early 1900s.
❖ The Code is based in part on lessons learned from significant fires.
❖ The Code is a consensus document published by the 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. Healthcare committee members, for example, include:
    ○ Fire marshals
    ○ Consultants
    ○ Healthcare providers
    ○ Governmental agencies (Veterans Administration and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [CMS])
    ○ The Joint Commission (TJC)
    ○ American Hospital Association (and other associations)
    ○ Manufacturers
    ○ American Institute of Architects
    ○ Insurance engineers
  • Anybody can submit proposed changes to the Code. These are referred to as “public input.” There is also a comment period.
  • The 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 (the NFPA), application (enforcement) is not mandatory unless legally adopted by federal, state, county, or local government.
❖ CMS (formerly the Health Care Financing Administration, or HCFA) or TJC may require compliance for aid or accreditation.
❖ The Code is a nationally recognized standard often cited in litigation.
  - Compliance is voluntary.

**Arrangement of the Code**

The Code has three major sections.

Section I contains the fundamental chapters (1–11), which apply to all occupancies:
❖ 1: Administration
❖ 2: Mandatory References (Note: 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 [AHJ] and if there is no serious hazard to life safety presented by the deficiency.)
❖ 3: Definitions
❖ 4: General
❖ 5: Performance-Based Option
❖ 6: Classification of Occupancy and Hazard of Contents
❖ 7: Means of Egress
❖ 8: Features of Fire Protection
❖ 9: Building Service & Fire Protection Equipment
❖ 10: Interior Finish, Contents, and Furnishings
❖ 11: Special Structures and High-Rise Buildings

Section II contains the occupancy chapters (12–42); the requirements set forth in these chapters are based on the use (or occupancy) of a building. Most occupancies have separate chapters for “new” and “existing” buildings.
❖ 12 & 13: Assembly Occupancies
❖ 14 & 15: Educational Occupancies
❖ 16 & 17: Day-Care Occupancies
❖ 18 & 19: Healthcare Occupancies
❖ 20 & 21: Ambulatory Healthcare Occupancies
❖ 22 & 23: Detention and Correctional Occupancies
❖ 24: One- and Two-Family Occupancies
❖ 25: Reserved for Future Use
❖ 26: Lodging and Rooming Houses
❖ 27: Reserved for Future Use
❖ 28 & 29: Hotels & Dormitories
Module 1—Code Background and Organization

❖ 30 & 31: Apartment Buildings
❖ 32 & 33: Residential Board and Care Occupancies
❖ 34 & 35: Reserved for Future Use
❖ 36 & 37: Mercantile Occupancies
❖ 38 & 39: Business Occupancies
❖ 40: Industrial Occupancies
❖ 41: Reserved for Future Use
❖ 42: Storage Occupancies

Section III contains the Annexes:
❖ Annex A: Explanatory Material (This is not a part of the Code and should not be enforced as such.)
❖ Annex B: Non-Mandatory Referenced Publications (Publications reference Annex A and therefore are not mandatory.)

The Code also contains an index.

Use of the Code

❖ Changes to the Code from a previous edition are marked with a vertical bar. This might be a new or a revised paragraph.
  • Editorial changes are not indicated.
❖ An asterisk (*) following the Code section indicates that explanatory materials are contained in Annex A.
❖ In later editions, a bullet (•) is used to indicate where text has been removed.
❖ Most requirements in the 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

2000: There were two major changes in the 2000 edition of the Code, including a brand-new chapter on the performance-based option. Module 4 discusses this chapter. The second change, and for the healthcare 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 has received a significant revision to its 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 healthcare out of the healthcare 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.

There is a series of small changes in the Existing Healthcare chapter and related chapters to make using the 2000 edition of the Code less onerous on healthcare 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

<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>
</tr>
<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 tasks 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 18 &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>
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<tr>
<td>36 &amp; 37 Mercury Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapters 24 &amp; 25</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>38 &amp; 39 Business Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapters 26 &amp; 27</td>
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</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>
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<tr>
<td>42 Storage Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapter 29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annex A Explanatory Material</td>
<td>Appendix A</td>
<td>New NFPA Policy: &quot;annex&quot; rather than &quot;appendix&quot;</td>
</tr>
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<td>Annex B Nonmandatory Referenced Publications</td>
<td>Appendix B</td>
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### Table 1.2

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Chapter 1997 Code</th>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 2 Fundamental Requirements</td>
<td>Section 4.5</td>
<td>Rewritten and moved into Chapter 4</td>
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<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 5 Performance-Based Option</td>
<td>New Chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 5 Means of Egress</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 6 Features of Fire Protection</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 7 Building Service &amp; Fire Protection Equipment</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>Sections 6-5 and 6-6 moved to the new Chapter 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 8 Assembly Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapters 10 &amp; 11 Educational Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapters 12 &amp; 13</td>
<td>New chapter – material formerly in Sections 6-5 and 6-6</td>
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<td>Chapters 12 &amp; 13 Health Care Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapters 14 &amp; 15</td>
<td>Also incorporates significant material from NFPA 102</td>
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<td>Sections 12 &amp; 13 Ambulatory Health Care</td>
<td>Chapters 18 &amp; 19</td>
<td>Day Care moved out of chapters in 1997</td>
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<td>Chapters 16 &amp; 17 Detention &amp; Correctional Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapters 20 &amp; 21</td>
<td>Ambulatory health care moved out of chapter</td>
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<td>Chapters 18 &amp; 19 Apartment Buildings</td>
<td>Chapters 22 &amp; 23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Chapter 20 Lodging &amp; Rooming Houses</td>
<td>Chapter 26</td>
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<td>Chapter 21 One- and Two-Family Dwellings</td>
<td>Chapter 27</td>
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<td>Moved to the beginning of the residential section since it forms the basics for all residential occupancies</td>
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<td>Chapters 32 &amp; 33</td>
<td>New reserved chapter</td>
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<td>Chapters 34 &amp; 35</td>
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<td>Chapter 28 Industrial Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapters 36 &amp; 37</td>
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<td>Chapter 29 Storage Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapter 40</td>
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<td>Chapters 30 &amp; 31 Day-Care Occupancies</td>
<td>Chapter 41</td>
<td>New reserved chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 32 Special Structures &amp; High-Rise Buildings</td>
<td>Chapter 16 &amp; 17</td>
<td>Moved back after Educational Occupancies – These used to be part of Educational</td>
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<td>Chapter 33 Referenced Publications</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
<td>Moved into the “base chapter” section. Material from NFPA 102 added</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix A</td>
<td>Annex A</td>
<td>NFPA Manual of Style required the move</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix B</td>
<td>Annex B</td>
<td>Same reason as Annex A</td>
</tr>
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</table>
2003: The 2003 edition of the Code had very limited changes and mostly focused on technical changes to make requirements clearer. In addition, the style was changed again to move exceptions from under a specific requirement to be a portion of the requirement and reword them to be included in the requirement’s actual body.

2006: The 2006 edition of the Code is when we first see changes to the healthcare suite requirements and the introduction of Chapter 43 on building rehabilitation.

2009: The 2009 edition ushered in better correlations between the Life Safety Code and other codes, and we see specific requirements pulled from other codes and placed in NFPA 101.

2012: There were numerous changes to the 2012 edition of the Code to make it ready to be the next edition adopted by CMS. Healthcare occupancy changes included the clarification of some suite requirements and locking requirements. The 2012 edition has many changes that benefit healthcare facilities.

Numerous small technical changes have been made to the Code through all the editions and are not discussed in this Workbook.

Commentary

The Life Safety Code, otherwise known as NFPA 101, is one of many documents the NFPA promulgates. The 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. The NFPA is not a governmental agency but an organization with more than 75,000 members worldwide. NFPA membership is open to anyone with an interest in fire safety. Further information is available from NFPA at 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101, or by visiting www.nfpa.org. NFPA 101 and Life Safety Code are registered trademarks of the National Fire Protection Association, Inc.

One of the 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 Code is one of the most widely used. All of the 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 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 ensures balance and consensus.

Anybody can submit changes to a code or standard and can comment on changes proposed by others. NFPA membership votes on all changes to the various documents at the NFPA Conference & Exposition in June each year. 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 Code first evolved in 1911 with the preparation of a document published a year later called Exit Drills in Factories, Schools, Department Stores and Theaters. The NFPA published the first Building
Exits Code in 1927. In 1966 it became the Code for Safety to Life from Fire in Buildings and Structures, and more recently it was formally changed to what it had become familiarly known as: the Life Safety Code. For further information on the history and development of the Code, see pp. 101-1 and 101-2 in the front of the Code.

The 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 development, 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 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, healthcare. 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 Code for financial aid. For example, CMS requires that a facility meet the Code for Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement. Virtually all federal agencies require compliance for their buildings. Furthermore, the Code is an American National Standards Institute 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 healthcare facilities, TJC requires that all TJC-accredited facilities be designed and maintained in accordance with the Code. As a result, TJC’s Statement of Conditions™ is based on the Code.

The Code essentially consists of three major parts. Chapters 1–11 constitute the first part and are often referred to as the “fundamental,” “basic,” or “core” chapters. They form the building blocks of the rest of the Code and are vital to understand, for without a grasp of the basics the Code cannot be properly applied.

Chapter 2 provides a list of documents with 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 sprinkler protected, 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.

Chapter 5 covers the performance-based option. If this 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 was new to the 2000 edition of the 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 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 Code, this chapter will be of importance.

The occupancy chapters (Chapters 12–42) form the second and largest part of the Code. Most occupancies have two chapters: one for new and one for existing. For example, Chapter 18, New Healthcare Occupancies, pairs with Chapter 19, Existing Healthcare 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 a few occupancies for which a single chapter covers both new and existing, including Chapter 40, Industrial Occupancies, and Chapter 42, Storage Occupancies.

The annexes (A and B) comprise what might be considered the third part of the Code. 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 this material 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 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 “non-mandatory” reference in Annex B.

A typical paragraph number in the Code consists of a chapter number followed by a series of numbers. For example: “7.2.1.4.1*” tells us that this paragraph is in Chapter 7, Section 7.2, Subsection 7.2.1, and is a subparagraph to 7.2.1.4. The asterisk (*) tells us that there is additional information in Annex A regarding the paragraph. Looking in Annex A, we will find this additional information under 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. In newer editions of the Code, a bullet is used to document a point where text has been removed, and the vertical bar only shows where text has been added or changed. 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 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 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
__2.2.2 Doors (7.2.1)
__2.2.3 Stairs (7.2.2)
__2.2.4 Smokeproof Enclosures (7.2.3)
__2.2.5 Horizontal Exits (7.2.4)
__2.2.6 Ramps (7.2.5)
__2.2.7 Exit Passageways (7.2.6)
__2.2._ Escalators and Moving Walks for Existing (if permitted) (7.2.7)
__2.2._ Fire Escape Stairs for Existing (if permitted) (7.2.8)
__2.2._ Fire Escape Ladders (if permitted) (7.2.9)
__2.2._ Slide Escapes (if permitted—very few occupancies do) (7.2.10)
__2.2._ Alternating Tread Devices (if permitted) (7.2.11)
__2.2._ Areas of Refuge (7.2.12)
__2.2._ 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) (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
(This section is reserved in most occupancy chapters. It is used by day care for day-care homes, and by industrial and storage for special industrial and storage occupancies.)

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 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.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupancy Chapters</th>
<th>Subject /Title</th>
<th>Core Chapters</th>
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</table>
Q. Which code takes precedence over the other: NFPA 101 (used by TJC) or my local building and fire code?

A. Unfortunately, they both do. Generally, you will have to comply with the specific requirements of each. To gain and keep TJC accreditation, you are required to comply with the requirements of the 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 Code. Fortunately, most of the requirements in the Code and in other standards are either the same or are heading in the same direction. Note that most codes and standards, including the 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.

2. T F
NFPA staff writes the *Code* in house.

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 *Code* contains requirements based on a building’s use (occupancy).

5. T F
The *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 AHJ and if the deficiency presents no serious hazard to life safety.
The New LIFE SAFETY CODE®
Workbook and Study Guide for Healthcare Facilities

Jennifer L. Frecker • James K. Lathrop


Created with facility managers, plant operations professionals, directors of engineering, and architects in mind, this comprehensive study guide is the only resource that provides a detailed explanation of the requirements of the Life Safety Code as they specifically apply to healthcare and related occupancies.

Benefits:

- In-depth coverage of the 2012 Code changes in one easy-to-use location
- Up-to-date information from experts in the field intimately familiar with both the 2000 and 2012 versions of the Code
- Thorough analysis of the changes and what you need to do to comply
- Preparation for Life Safety Code surveys

Pair this workbook with The New Life Safety Code® Field Guide for Healthcare Facilities, a small, portable guide that gives you a quick reference for key issues—perfect to take with you when reviewing your facility!