



FIRE PREVENTION MANUAL

CODE REQUIREMENTS

402.001 AMBULATORY HEALTH-CARE CENTERS REQUIRING HHS LICENSING

EFFECTIVE: JUNE 2008

SCOPE

Additional requirements for ambulatory health care centers that receive funding and/or are licensed by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the requirements of “other agencies” for outpatient (ambulatory) surgery centers that receive federal funding and require licensing by the HHS.

BACKGROUND

Ambulatory surgery centers treat patients receiving outpatient medical care that may render the patient incapable of unassisted, self-preservation in the event of a fire or other emergency. Such patients do not stay in the facility overnight. When an ambulatory health-care (outpatient surgery) center has six or more such patients, it is classified as an I2.1 occupancy per the California Code of Regulations, Title 24. The requirements of Title 24, for an I2.1 occupancy, shall meet most, but not all, licensing requirements for an outpatient surgery center for HHS.

Outpatient surgery centers with an occupant load of five or less are classified as “B” occupancies, per Title 24, and have additional requirements in the California Building Code and the California Fire Code for fire sprinkler and fire alarm systems.

When the facility will receive federal funding from the HHS, it is mandated the facility also comply with Section 20.6 or 21.6 of the Life and Safety Code (NFPA No. 101), regardless of occupant load. Therefore, both the B and I2.1 facilities seeking federal funding must meet the HHS licensing requirements.

REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements are mandated by the current California Building Code and the current Life and Safety Code (NFPA No. 101). The specific requirements for ambulatory surgery centers are determined by the number of patients, the type of surgery conducted, and if the facility is licensed by the federal government. The number of such patients requiring assistance during exiting is generally based on one patient in preparation, one in surgery, and one in recovery. Typically, a facility with two surgery units would have a patient occupant load of six. If more than one recovery or preparation bed per surgery unit is proposed, the occupant load is increased accordingly.

Plans for ambulatory health-care (surgery) centers must be submitted to the City of Fresno Development and Resource Management Department (DARM) for plan review. A separate submittal directly to the City of Fresno Fire Department for fire sprinkler and fire alarm systems is also required for facilities to be HHS licensed.

The California State Department of Public Health Services (CDPH) office works under a contract with the federal government to conduct inspections mandated by the HHS. They will only conduct such an inspection after a facility is constructed; however they will complete a courtesy review of the submittal for compliance with NFPA, No. 101. The applicant must contact the local CDPH, Licensing and Certification office .

REFERENCE

HHS Form CMS-2786U (02/13) contains a complete list of federal requirements that must be met for a building to be approved as a federal funded, HHS approved Ambulatory Surgery Center. A copy of HHS form CMS-2786U (02/13) for a new ambulatory surgery center is available on their website at the following address <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/downloads/CMS2786U.pdf>.