



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

February 7, 2025

**AL TSA: ICF/IID #2025-001**

**INCREASED REGULATORY FOCUS BY THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
(OSFM) – ICF/IID**

Dear ICF/IID Superintendent:

WA State ICF/IID facilities 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 ICF/IID 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 ICF/IID facilities 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 ICF/IID facilities:

- 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.)*

Current fire safety and LSC regulatory guidance provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for LTC facilities includes:

- [Life Safety Code & Health Care Facilities Code \(HCFC\) | CMS](#),
- [Life Safety Code & Health Care Facilities Code Requirements | CMS](#),
- [2000 Edition National Fire Protection Association \(NFPA\) 101® Life Safety Code \(LSC\) Waivers | Guidance Portal](#),
- [S&C: 17-15-LSC](#) – Revised 10/26/2022,
- [CMS-2786W](#),
- [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).

Current WA State fire safety regulatory guidance for LTC facilities includes:

- [RCW 74.42.570](#) – Health and safety requirements,

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- [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 388-97-2020](#) – Intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities,
- [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,
- [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,

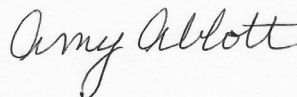
Related References:

- [WSP Fire Inspection & Plan Review Site](#),
- [S&C: 16-29-LSC](#).
- [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.
- [42 CFR 483.470](#) - ICF/IID

For questions about Life Safety Code regulations, please contact Cozetta Christian, Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal at (360) 584-5796 or [Cozetta.Christian@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Cozetta.Christian@wsp.wa.gov).

Please submit policy questions to the RCS Policy Unit at: [rcspolicy@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:rcspolicy@dshs.wa.gov)

Sincerely,



Amy Abbott, Director  
Residential Care Services

DSHS: “Partnering with People”