



Alcohol Based Hand Rubs

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- Amendment to the 2000 Life Safety Code for certain health care facilities:
 - ❖ Hospitals
 - ❖ Ambulatory Surgical Centers
 - ❖ Nursing Homes
 - ❖ Religious Non-Medical Health Care Institutions
 - ❖ Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Facilities
 - ❖ Critical Access Hospitals
 - ❖ Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded

Amendment & Administrative Rule

- Permit Alcohol Based Hand Rubs (ABHRs) to be used in exit access corridors provided they meet certain requirements.
- ABHRs must conform to state and local laws.
- The dispensers must be installed in such to minimize leaks and/or spills
- The dispensers must be installed to adequately prevent access by **vulnerable populations**.

National Fire Protection Association

- Amended the 2000 edition of the Life Safety Code (LSC), which adopted by reference in the Medicare and Medicaid fire safety regulations, to permit the installation of ABHR dispensers in exit access corridors of health care facilities.
- Previously ABHRs have been permitted in patient rooms, but not in egress corridors, since they contain flammable materials and could block egress in a fire.

Infection Control

- ABHRs have become increasingly common as an infection control method.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports there are more than 2 million health care acquired infections per year.
 - Many of the infections are transmitted because health care workers do not wash their hands or do so improperly or inadequately.

Accessibility

- An important aspect in getting health care workers to ABHRs is their accessibility.
- The American Hospital Association commissioned a study to determine the safest method to place ABHRs in egress corridors.
 - As a result of this study, the LSC was amended to permit their use under certain conditions.

LSC Conditions for Use

- Where ABHR dispensers are installed in a corridor, the corridor shall have a minimum width of 6 ft (1.8m).
- The maximum individual dispenser fluid capacity shall be:
 - 0.3 gallons (1.2 liters) for dispensers in rooms, corridors, and areas open to corridors.
 - 0.5 gallons (2.0 liters) for dispensers in suites of rooms.

Conditions for Use

-Continued-

- The dispensers shall have a minimum horizontal spacing of 4 ft (1.2m) from each other.
- Not more than an aggregate 10 gallons (37.8 liters) of ABHR solution shall be in use in a **single smoke compartment** outside of a storage cabinet.
- Storage of quantities greater than 5 gallons (18.9 liters) in a single smoke compartment shall meet the requirements of NFPA 30, Flammable and Combustible Liquid Code.

Conditions for Use

-Continued-

- The dispensers shall not be installed over or directly adjacent to an ignition source.
- In locations with carpeted floor coverings, dispensers installed directly over carpeted surfaces shall be permitted only in sprinklered smoke compartments.

Appendix PP of the SOM F454 Physical Environment

- 483.70(a) Life Safety From Fire
 - 483.70(a)(6) Notwithstanding any provisions of the 2000 edition of the Life Safety Code to the contrary, a long term care facility may install alcohol-based hand rub dispensers in the facility if –
 - 483.70(a)(6)(i) Use of alcohol-based hand rub dispensers does not conflict with any State or local codes that prohibit or otherwise restrict the placement of alcohol-based hand rub dispensers in health care facilities;
 - Goes on to state the conditions of use.

**Thank You
For Your Attention**