

May 2, 2008 Revised Version

420-5-4-.08 Physical Facilities.

(1) **Administrative Facilities.** Each assisted living facility shall provide office space(s) or administrative office(s).

(a) As a minimum, the administrative office(s) shall be provided with a desk, file cabinet, and related office equipment and supplies.

(b) Congregate assisted living facilities shall provide separate rooms for administrative and office purposes.

(c) **Communication Facilities.** Each assisted living facility shall have an adequate number of telephones to summon help in case of fire or other emergency, and these shall be located so as to be quickly accessible from all parts of the building.

(d) **Fire Protection Arrangements.** The facility shall have arrangements for fire protection with the nearest available fire department for assistance in case of fire. Each facility shall have a monitoring service for its fire alarm system.

(e) **Center Staff Station.** New Group and Congregate facilities, and existing Group and Congregate facilities that are enlarged or renovated to accommodate bed increases, shall have a centrally located staff station with call for assistance and fire alarm system annunciation panels.

(2) Physical facilities (Drugs and Medicines).

(a) **Medicine Cabinet Storage.** There shall be a medicine cabinet or storage area in the facility for safekeeping of individual medicine and drugs. The medicine ~~cabinet~~ storage area shall:

1. Be provided with lock and key and be kept locked when not being used.
2. Have adequate storage space with shelving.
3. Be adequately lighted with artificial illumination.

(b) **Refrigerator.** A refrigerator, capable of being secured, and dedicated to medicine and drug storage, shall be required for medicines and drugs which must be refrigerated.

(3) Resident's Physical Facilities

(a) All resident bedrooms shall have an outside window and shall not be below grade. Window areas shall not be less than one-eighth of the floor area, unless proper lighting,

ventilation and air-conditioning are provided. All assisted living facilities submitted for plan review on or after October 5, 2001 shall ensure that each resident bedroom has at least one outside window with a minimum of 20 feet of clear space to any structure, measured perpendicularly. A peripheral view of the exterior shall be provided from newly constructed bedrooms.

(b) Residents' bedrooms shall be located so as to minimize the entrance of odors, noise, and other nuisances.

(c) Residents' bedrooms shall be directly accessible to a main corridor or through no more than one intervening sitting room within the bedroom suite. In no case shall a resident bedroom be used for access to another resident room.

(d) Group and Congregate resident bedrooms shall be individually and consistently identified, (numbered, lettered, or named, ~~or decorated~~).

(e) ~~4.~~ Bedroom Size. As a minimum, floor area shall be as follows:

1. ~~(i)~~ Private bedroom without sitting area: 80 square feet. Double bedroom without sitting area: 130 square feet.

2. ~~(ii)~~ Private bedroom with sitting area: 160 square feet. Double bedroom with sitting area: 200 square feet.

3. ~~(iii)~~ Bedrooms shall accommodate no more than two residents.

4. ~~(iv)~~ Facilities licensed prior to December 25, 1991 are exempt.

(f) ~~(e)~~ Bedroom furnishings. The resident has the right to furnish his or her room as he or she so chooses, within the facility's guidelines. If the facility offers to provide some or all of the furniture, as a minimum, bedrooms shall contain the following for each resident:

1. A suitable built-in clothes closet or wardrobe with shelving space and clothing pole.

2. A bed with good springs and mattress and sufficient clean bedding. In no case shall a cot or rollaway bed be provided for residents.

3. A dresser or chest of drawers.

4. A bedside table and bed lamp.

5. At least one comfortable chair, preferably an armchair or rocker.

6. Window shades, venetian blinds, or other suitable provisions for closing the view from the window.

7. Adequate number of electrical outlets shall be provided. ~~Extension cords shall not pose a hazard to residents.~~ Extension cords, U.L. approved with overload protection capability may be used for light duty appliances and shall not pose a hazard to residents.

8. A mirror in the bedroom or bedroom suite, unless contraindicated by a resident's condition.

(g) ~~(f)~~ Toilet and Bathing Facilities. As a minimum, the following toilet and bathing facilities shall be provided.

1. For all residents' bedrooms, which do not have adjoining toilet and bathing facilities, plumbing fixtures shall be provided within the resident sleeping area according to the following ratio:

- (i) Bathtubs or showers 1 per 8 beds
- (ii) Lavatories 1 per 6 beds
- (iii) Toilets 1 per 6 beds

2. When a semi-private bedroom is provided, the facility shall provide a means of privacy for dressing and bathing. When common area bathrooms are provided, there shall be separation by partitions, curtains or screens to provide for privacy in the baths and toilets.

3. Non-skid mats or equal surface treatment and safety handgrips or grab bars shall be provided in tubs, showers and at each toilet fixture. Grab bars shall be installed in new Group and Congregate facilities ~~mounted~~ to conform to the currently adopted building code.

(g) ~~Utility rooms shall be provided for each floor of congregate-assisted living facilities. The following equipment shall be provided:~~

- ~~1. Paper towel holder with an adequate supply of paper towels~~
- ~~2. Wall cabinet or shelves~~
- ~~3. Table or counter~~
- ~~4. Soap dispenser with soap~~
- ~~5. Sink - counter top, wall or floor mounted~~
- ~~6. Space and facilities for cleaning equipment and supplies~~

(h) All essential mechanical, electrical and resident care equipment shall be clean and maintained in safe operating condition.

(i) ~~Clean~~ Bed and bath linens shall be clean and in good condition.

(j) Housekeeping and maintenance services necessary to maintain a sanitary, orderly, and comfortable interior shall be provided.

(4) Food Service Facilities.

(a) Floors. Floors in food service areas shall be of such construction as to be easily cleaned, sound, smooth, nonabsorbent, without cracks or crevices, and shall be provided with approved and conveniently located facilities for the disposal of floor wash water.

(b) Walls and Ceilings. Walls and ceilings of food service areas shall be of tight and substantial construction, and smoothly finished. The walls and ceilings shall be without horizontal ledges and shall be washable up to the highest level reached by splash and spray. Roofs and walls shall be maintained free of leaks. All openings to the exterior shall be provided with doors or windows which prevent the entrance of rain or dust during inclement weather.

(c) Screens or Outside Openings. Openings to the outside shall be effectively screened, or suitable provisions made equal to screening (such as fly fans). Screen doors shall be equipped with selfclosing devices.

(d) Lighting. The kitchen, dishwashing area and the dining room shall have adequate light. ~~Emergency lighting shall be provided in the kitchen and dining areas.~~

(e) Ventilation. Vent/exhaust hoods, vented to the outdoors, shall be provided over cooking surfaces to aid in removing cooking odors. Existing recirculating vent hoods in Family facilities may remain in use when filters are cleaned or replaced regularly to prevent excess grease accumulation. Group homes with residential stoves may use a residential hood sized for the stove. Commercial exhaust hoods shall be installed when commercial cooking equipment is used. Congregate facilities shall use a commercial exhaust hood system.

(f) Employee Toilet Facilities. Toilet rooms, if provided, shall not open directly into any room or space in which food is prepared, stored, displayed, or served, nor into any room in which utensils are washed or stored. Toilet rooms shall include a lavatory with a soap dispenser and disposable towels, and shall be well lighted and ventilated.

(g) Handwashing Facilities. ~~An~~ Each Group and Congregate assisted living facility shall provide ~~convenient~~ a hand washing facilities lavatory ~~in all the~~ in all the kitchens ~~and bathrooms~~ which shall be equipped with a soap dispenser and a supply of soap, disposable towels, and hot and cold running water through a mixing valve or combination faucet. The use of a common towel and common bar soap is prohibited. Hands shall not be washed in sinks where food is

prepared. ~~New g Group and e Congregate facilities, and~~ Existing g Group and e Congregate facilities that enlarge or renovate kitchens, shall ~~also have~~ install a hand wash sink.

(h) Refrigeration Facilities. Adequate refrigeration facilities, automatic in operation for the storage of perishable foods shall be provided. If it is impractical to provide separate refrigeration for perishables, the refrigeration shall be maintained at 41 degrees Fahrenheit or less. All refrigerators shall be provided with thermometers. All refrigerators shall be kept clean.

(i) Equipment and Utensil Construction. Equipment and utensils, except single service utensils, shall be so constructed as to be easily cleaned and shall be kept in good repair. No cadmium plated, lead, or readily corrodible utensils or equipment shall be used.

(j) Separation of Kitchen from Resident Rooms and Sleeping Quarters. Any room used for sleeping quarters shall be separated from the food service area by a solid wall with no direct openings. Sleeping accommodations shall not be permitted within the food service area.

(k) Clean Rooms. Floors, walls and ceilings of rooms in the food service area shall be clean and free of an accumulation of rubbish, dust, grease, dirt, etc.

(l) Clean Equipment. Equipment in the food service area shall be clean and free of dust, grease, dirt, etc.

(m) Clean Counters, Tables, Tablecloths, and Napkins. Tables and counters, which are used for food service, shall be kept clean. Tablecloths and cloth napkins shall be laundered after each use.

(n) Location and Space requirements. Food service facilities shall be located in a specifically designated area and shall include the following rooms and space: kitchen, dishwashing, food storage, and dining room.

(o) Equipment. Minimum equipment in the kitchen shall include the following:

1. Range. In a Family or g Group assisted living facility, a residential use range is permitted. A e Congregate assisted living facility shall have a heavy duty range suitable for institutional use with double oven, or equivalent.

2. Refrigerator. A f Family or a g Group assisted living facility may use a residential refrigerator. A e Congregate assisted living facility shall have a heavy duty refrigerator suitable for institutional use.

3. Fire extinguisher, 5 pound type BC for residential hoods and K or other type for commercial approved hoods.

4. A three-compartment sink with a booster heater or chemical ~~sanitization~~ sanitizing system for the third compartment shall be provided in e Congregate assisted living facilities.

5. Garbage cans with cover.

6. Dishwashing. The dishwashing equipment for f Family and g Group assisted living facilities shall be either residential type using cold water sanitizers or commercial type with a booster water heater. Dishwashing equipment for all e Congregate assisted living facilities shall be commercial type ~~with~~ using a booster water heater or an automatic dispensing sanitizing chemical system.

(p) Food Storage. A wellventilated, cool food storage room, ~~or~~ pantry or cabinets shall be provided. Adequate shelving, bins, suitable cans, and raised platforms shall be provided and kept clean. Perishable food shall be stored at least six inches above the floor. The storeroom shall be of such construction as to prevent the invasion of rodents and insects, the seepage of dust and water, leakage, or any other source of contamination.

(q) Dining Room. ~~4.~~ A resident dining room, or rooms, shall be provided which is large enough to seat not less than 100 percent of the bed capacity.

~~2.~~ ~~The dining or living room may be used for recreational purposes or group activities.~~

(r) Water Heating Equipment. Equipment for heating an ample supply of water, under pressure, for all washing purposes shall be provided. Hot water shall be piped to all handwashing facilities, and to each compartment of all dishwashing and laundry sinks. Water heaters shall be automatic type.

(5) Recreational.

(a) Living and Recreational Room(s). Each assisted living facility shall provide adequate living and recreational room(s) ~~for private visits with relatives and friends, for small group activities, and for larger social events, such as holiday celebrations, without crowding.~~ The following shall be included:

1. Small living room(s) of a personal or family type so that residents may read or visit with relatives and friends in private. This requirement may be met when private bedrooms are large enough for use as small sitting rooms and are furnished for this use. Furniture for small living rooms and sitting spaces in bedrooms shall include comfortable chairs, tables, and lamps of good repair and clean.

2. Central living or recreational room in which group activities can take place. This requirement may be met by combining the resident dining room with a central living or recreational room.

(i) The usual type of small family dwelling which has a central living room, dining room, and den or enclosed sun porch, may meet the requirements in facilities classified as Family ~~and Group~~ assisted living facilities.

(ii) Living and recreational room shall be furnished according to the activities offered. Furniture ~~for small living rooms and sitting spaces in bedrooms~~ shall include comfortable chairs, tables, and lamps of good repair and ~~appearance~~ clean.

(b) Yards and Gardens. Each assisted living facility shall provide safe space for outside activities.

(c) Hobbies or Leisure Activities. Each assisted living facility shall provide adequate space(s) for hobbies and leisure activities.

Author: Victor Hunt

Statutory Authority: *Code of Alabama, 1975, 22-21-20, et. seq.*

History: Repealed and Replaced: Filed October 18, 2001; effective November 22, 2001.

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420-5-4-.09 Laundry.

(1) General.

(a) Direction and Supervision. Responsibility for laundry services shall be assigned to an employee.

(b) Linen. Linens shall be handled, stored, processed and transported in a manner consistent with generally accepted infection control practices.

(2) Location and Space Requirements.

(a) Each assisted living facility shall have laundering facilities unless commercial laundries are used. An on-site laundry shall be located in a specifically designated area, and there shall be adequate rooms and spaces for sorting, processing, and storage of soiled material. Laundry rooms in ~~g~~ Group and ~~e~~ Congregate facilities shall not open directly into resident rooms or food service areas. Domestic washers and dryers which are for the exclusive use of residents may be provided in resident areas, provided they are installed in such a manner that they do not cause a sanitation problem or offensive odors. A ~~f~~ Family or ~~g~~ Group assisted living facility may use residential laundry equipment and Congregate facilities shall use commercial equipment.

(b) Each assisted living facility shall have a system in place to keep clean linen and dirty linen separated and to prevent the reuse of dirty linen before it is cleaned.

Dirty linens and clothing shall not be stored, even temporarily, in the area set aside for clean linen.

- (c) Ventilation of Laundry. Provisions shall be made for proper mechanical ventilation of the laundry, if located within the assisted living facility. Provisions shall also be made to prevent the recirculation of air in commercial equipment laundries ~~through~~ into the heating and air conditioning systems outside the laundry area.
- (d) Lint Traps. Adequate, effective, and clean lint traps shall be used in all dryers.

Author: Victor Hunt

Statutory Authority: *Code of Alabama, 1975, 222120, et. seq.*

History: Repealed and Replaced: Filed October 18, 2001; effective November 22, 2001.

420-5-4-.10 Sanitation and Housekeeping

(1) Sanitation.

- (a) Water Supply.
 - 1. If at all possible, all water shall be obtained from a public water supply. If it is impossible to connect to a public water system, the private water supply shall meet the approval of the local County Health Department.
 - 2. Water under pressure of not less than fifteen pounds per square inch shall be piped within the building to all sinks, toilets, lavatories, tubs, showers and other fixtures requiring water. Tubs, showers, sinks, lavatories, and other fixtures used by residents shall have hot water supplied. Hot water accessible to residents shall in no case exceed 110 degrees Fahrenheit.
- (b) Disposal of Liquid and Human Wastes.
 - 1. There shall be installed within the building a properly designed waste disposal system, connecting to all fixtures to which water under pressure is piped.
 - 2. All liquid and human waste, including floor wash water and liquid waste from refrigerators, shall be disposed through trapped drains into a public sewer in localities where such system is available.
 - 3. In localities where a public sanitary sewer is not available, liquid and human waste shall be disposed through trapped drains into a sewage disposal system approved by the local County Health Department. The

sewage disposal system shall be of a size and capacity based on the number of residents and personnel housed and employed in the institution. Where the sewage disposal system is installed at an existing facility prior to granting of a license, it shall be inspected and approved by the local County Health Department.

- (c) Premises. The premises shall be kept neat and clean. The property shall be free of rubbish, weeds, ponded water, or other conditions that may create a health, safety, or sanitation hazard.
 - (d) Control of Insects, Rodents and Other Pests. Each facility shall be kept free of ants, flies, roaches, rodents, and other pests. Proper and lawful methods for their eradication or control shall be used. Droppings shall be evidence of infestation by pests.
 - (e) Toilet Room Cleanliness. Floors, walls, ceilings, and fixtures of all toilet rooms shall be kept clean and free of objectionable odors. These rooms shall be kept free of an accumulation of rubbish, cleaning supplies, and toiletry articles. The use of a common towel and common bar soap is prohibited.
 - (f) Garbage Disposal.
 - 1. Garbage must be kept in watertight suitable containers with tightfitting covers. Garbage containers must be emptied at frequent intervals and shall be thoroughly cleaned and aired before using again.
 - 2. Garbage and waste shall be disposed of in accordance with local and state regulations.
 - (g) Control of odors. The facility shall be free of objectionable odors.
- (2) **Housekeeping and Physical Plant Maintenance.** The facility must provide a safe, functional, sanitary and comfortable environment for residents, staff, and the public.
- (a) Equipment and Supplies. The home shall maintain an adequate quantity of housekeeping and maintenance equipment and supplies.
 - (b) Bathtubs and Lavatories. Bathtubs and lavatories shall be kept clean and in proper working order, and shall not be used for laundering.
 - (c) Resident Bedrooms. Resident bedrooms shall be cleaned and dusted as often as necessary to maintain a clean, attractive appearance.
 - (d) General Storage.

1. Broken beds, extra mattresses, mop buckets, and dust rags shall not be kept in hallways, closets, corners, or occupied resident rooms. Such items must be stored neatly and orderly in ~~properly constructed~~ and designated storage rooms.
2. The use of attics for storage of combustible materials shall be prohibited unless protected by an automatic sprinkler system and then only in small quantities so as not to create a hazardous condition.
3. Basements used for storage shall meet acceptable standards for storage and shall be designed and constructed in a manner that protects against fire hazards.
4. Flammable materials such as gasoline, motor fuels, lighter fluid, turpentine, acetone, and oil-based paint shall not be stored in the facility. Unless prohibited by a facility's own policies, however, a cognitively intact resident who uses lighter fluid to fill a personal cigarette lighter, or one who uses flammable materials such as paint or glue in connection with a personal hobby, may store small quantities of those materials in a safe and secure manner within his or her own room.

Author: Victor Hunt

Statutory Authority: *Code of Alabama, 1975, 222120, et. seq.*

History: Repealed and Replaced: Filed October 18, 2001; effective November 22, 2001.

420-5-4-.11 Fire and Safety

(1) General.

- (a) **Evacuation Plan.** All assisted living facilities shall maintain a current written fire control and evacuation plan. In facilities, which ~~do not~~ have multiple smoke compartments, an evacuation floor plan shall be appropriately posted in a conspicuous place. Fire control and evacuation plans shall be kept current. Written observations of the effectiveness of the fire drill plan shall be filed and kept for at least three years.
- (b) **Fire Drills.** Fire drills shall be conducted at least once per month in all facilities at varying times and days, quarterly on each shift of Group and Congregate facilities. All fire drills shall be initiated by the fire alarm system. The drills may be announced in advance to the residents. The drills shall involve the actual evacuation of residents to assembly areas in adjacent smoke compartments or to the exterior as specified in the emergency plan to provide staff and residents with experience in exiting through all exits required by the Code.

- (c) Fire Drills During Resident Sleeping Hours. When drills are conducted between 9:00 PM and 6:00 AM, a coded announcement shall be permitted to be used instead of the normal audible fire alarm signals. These drills may be conducted without disturbing sleeping residents, by using simulated residents or empty wheelchairs.

Author: Victor Hunt

Statutory Authority: *Code of Alabama, 1975, 222120, et. seq.*

History: Repealed and Replaced: Filed October 18, 2001; effective November 22, 2001.

420-5-4-.12 Physical Plant.

(1) General.

(a) Building Classification.

1. Family assisted living facilities shall be planned to serve the types of residents to be admitted and shall comply with the *Life Safety Code Chapter for One- and Two-Family Dwellings*, and shall comply with sections (1), (2), (3), and (4) of AAC Rule 420-5-4-.12.

2. Group assisted living facilities shall be planned to serve the residents to be admitted and shall comply with Section (1), (2), (3), and (5) of AAC Rule 420-5-4-.12.

3. Congregate assisted living facilities shall be planned to serve the residents to be admitted and shall comply with Sections (1), (2), (3), (6) of AAC Rule 420-5-4-.12.

4. Renovation within the exterior walls of an assisted living facility shall in no case be of such nature as to lower the character of the structure below the applicable building requirements for the classification of license held by the assisted living facility.

5. Dually Licensed Facility.

(i) For the purposes of meeting physical facility and building code requirements, a building housing both a regular assisted living facility and a specialty care assisted living facility shall be classified as a ~~g~~ Group or e Congregate facility in accordance with the combined licensed bed capacities of both facilities. For the purposes of meeting resident care and administrative requirements, the specialty care assisted living facility and the regular assisted living facility shall be separately considered, and each shall be classified as a e Congregate facility or a ~~g~~ Group facility in accordance with the licensed bed capacity of each, and the determination shall not be based on their combined bed capacity. Resident care and administrative requirements are found in sections 420-5-4-.01 through 420-5-4-.07 of these rules, and in sections 420-5-20-.01 through 420-5-20-.07 of the specialty care assisted living facility rules. Physical facility and building code requirements are found in sections 420-5-4-.08 and higher of these rules, and in sections 420-5-20-.08 and higher of the specialty care assisted living facility rules.

(ii) When a facility has a portion of a building licensed for specialty care residents, instead of the entire facility, the sleeping, bathing, dining and activity areas shall be in a distinct and separate unit within the building, certified for specialty care assisted living. Administrative, kitchen and service areas may be shared between the two licensed portions.

(b) Location. All assisted living facilities established or constructed shall be located so that they are free from undue noises, smoke, dust, or foul odors, ~~and~~ New assisted living facilities shall not be located at least 1,000 feet, for open areas, or 500 feet when separated by a boarded six feet high fence used to baffle any noise, from adjacent to railroads, freight yards, or disposal plants. This rule shall not prevent enlargement or expansion of existing assisted living facilities.

(c) Local Restrictions. The location and construction of all assisted living facilities shall comply with local zoning, building, and fire ordinances. Evidence to this effect, signed by local fire, building, or zoning officials, may be required as a condition of licensure. If a facility is to be located in an area that does not have any zoning, building or fire authority review then a letter stating such shall be obtained from the local county commission through official board action or office of the probate judge.

(d) ~~Transportation.~~ Assisted living facilities shall be located on publicly maintained streets or roads, and connected with driveways which ~~can~~ shall be kept passable at all times.

(e) ~~Communication.~~ ~~There shall be a telephone in the facility and additional telephones or extensions, as necessary, to summon help in case of fire or other emergencies.~~

(e) (f) Occupancy. No part of an assisted living facility may be rented, leased, or used for any commercial purpose not reasonably necessary or related to the services the facility is licensed to provide. The Department shall approve all plans for occupancy.

(f) (g) Basements. ~~±~~ The basement shall be considered as a story if it meets criteria established by the codes for a story.

~~2. No resident shall be housed on any floor that is below ground level.~~

(2) Submission of Plans and Specifications.

(a) New Facilities, Additions, and Alterations. Plans and specifications shall be submitted for review and approval to the Alabama Department of Public Health, for any building that is intended to contain an Assisted Living Facility, and for additions and alterations to ~~Assisted Living F~~ existing facilities. Submissions shall be in accordance with *Alabama Administrative Code Rule 420-5-22, "Submission of Plans and Specifications for Health Care Facilities."*

(b) ~~Inspections. The Alabama Department of Public Health shall have access at all times to work for inspection whenever it is in preparation or progress, and the owner shall ascertain that proper facilities are made available for such access and inspection.~~

(3) General Building Requirements Family, Group and Congregate.

(a) Structural Soundness and Repair. The building shall be structurally sound, free from leaks and excessive moisture, in good repair, and painted with sufficient frequency to be reasonably attractive inside and out. The interior and exterior of the building shall be kept clean and orderly.

(b) Temperature to be Maintained. The facility shall maintain a comfortable temperature. A comfortable range is between 71 - 81 degrees Fahrenheit.

(c) Lighting. Each resident's room shall have artificial light adequate for reading and other uses as needed. All entrances, hallways, stairways, inclines, ramps, cellars, attics, storerooms, kitchens, laundries, and service units shall have sufficient artificial lighting to prevent accidents and promote efficiency of service. Night lights shall be provided in all hallways, stairways, and bathrooms.

(d) Screens. All screen doors and nonstationary windows shall be equipped with tightfitting, full length ~~sixteen mesh~~ insect screens. Screen doors shall be equipped with selfclosing devices.

(e) Emergency Lighting. All assisted living facilities shall provide ~~an~~ emergency lighting ~~system~~ to adequately illuminate halls, corridors, kitchens, dining areas, and stairwells in case of electrical power failure. As a minimum, dry cell battery operated lighting shall be provided to light such spaces.

(f) Floors. All floors shall be level, smooth and free of cracks and finished so that they can be easily cleaned. The basic requirement for floor finishes shall be wall-to-wall with such finishes as inlaid linoleum paint, stain, sealer, carpet, sheet vinyl, vinyl tile, or hard tile, or other appropriate floor finish. ~~Floors in hallways, recreation areas, residents' bedrooms and dining rooms may be covered with carpet.~~ Floors shall be kept clean.

(g) Walls and Ceilings. All walls and ceilings shall be of sound construction with an acceptable surface and shall be kept clean and in good repair.

(h) Windows. Nonstationary windows shall be so constructed and maintained so that they fit snugly, and are capable of being opened and closed easily.

(i) Ceiling Height. Each room occupied by residents shall have a ceiling height of eight feet or more. Existing facilities with ceiling heights less than 8' shall be acceptable when the height complies with the codes.

(j) Handrails. If handrails are installed in halls or corridors, the handrails shall be mounted at 30 - 36 inches above the floor and returned to the wall at each end.

(k) Floor Levels. Any differences in floor levels shall not prevent a resident from navigating safely throughout the facility. New R ramps and inclines in the path of egress, where installed for the use of residents, shall not be steeper than one foot of rise in twelve feet of run (1:12), existing maximum slope shall not exceed a slope of 1:10, and shall be finished with a non-slip surface and shall be provided with handrails on both sides. If a facility houses wheelchair-bound residents, it shall have ramps or inclines.

(l) Stairways. Stairways shall be well lighted, kept in good repair and have handrails. Open space under stairs shall not be used for storage purpose. All walls and doors under stairs shall meet the same fire rating as the stairwell.

(m) Doors.

1. In each new g Group and e Congregate facility, doors of resident bathrooms connected to resident bedrooms shall swing into the bedroom.

2. Bedroom and bathroom doors may be equipped with hardware that will permit a resident to lock himself within the room, provided a master key is readily accessible for the staff at a central location.

3. Resident bedroom doors in g Group and e Congregate facilities shall be at least three feet wide. Bedroom doors in f Family assisted living facilities shall not be less than thirty-two inches wide.

4. Exterior egress doors shall not prevent free and unhindered egress from the facility. Delayed egress or other special locking arrangements are permitted only in specialty care assisted living facilities.

5. Exit doors swinging outward shall swing out over a landing having a minimum length and width equal to the door's width at the same level as the floor level, except existing doors shall not have more than a 4 inch step down. Exit doors of Family facilities may swing inward.

(n) Ventilation. The building shall be well ventilated at all times to prevent accumulation of objectionable odors. Kitchens, laundries, service rooms, toilets, and bathrooms shall be ventilated by windows, gravity vents, or mechanical means as necessary to prevent offensive odors from entering other parts of the facility.

(o) Fire Extinguishers. Fire extinguishers shall be provided for each hall floor, and for special hazard areas, such as kitchen, or and laundry, of type and capacity appropriate to the need.

1. Each fire extinguisher shall receive an annual inspection with maintenance, and recharging when necessary, by a fire equipment servicing ~~agency representative~~. An annual servicing tag shall be attached to the extinguisher reflecting the name of the servicing company, representative, day, month and year of maintenance.

2. A visual inspection of each fire extinguisher shall be conducted monthly by designated staff of the facility and documented on the attached extinguisher tag by the designated staff person.

(p) Call System. Except in ~~f~~ Family facilities, a central electric or electronic call system shall be conveniently provided for each resident, usable in bedrooms and bathrooms.

(q) ~~Buildings shall be designed to comply with the currently adopted building code, specified for the type of assisted living facility and permanently erected on a permanent foundation.~~ Manufactured homes/mobile homes are not permitted.

(r) Fireplaces and inserts ~~must have guards or screens~~, shall be inspected and cleaned annually, and shall comply with the currently adopted building code. ~~Fireplace~~ Openings shall be protected with ~~built-in screens or fire doors or glass doors~~.

(s) Fire Alarm System. Where fire alarm systems are required, A corridor smoke detection system shall be installed on each floor, including areas open to the exit access corridor, to comply with *NFPA 72*, connected to the facility's fire alarm system. In lieu of corridor smoke detection, smoke detectors connected to the building fire alarm system may be installed in each resident's room, open areas and at smoke doors (except that corridor smoke detection shall not be deleted when its use is dictated by other requirements).

(t) Fire Alarm and Sprinkler System ~~Outages~~.

~~1. Deficiencies or problems with the fire alarm system or fire sprinkler system shall be reported to the Department of Public Health within 12 hours, and shall be corrected as soon as possible.~~

1. -2. Fire alarm and sprinkler system outages of more than 4 hours require evacuation of the facility or the establishment of a continuous fire watch. The fire watch procedure must be coordinated with the Department and the local Fire Marshal. Outages and fire watch documentation shall be reported to the Department of Public Health within 12 hours or no later than the next duty day, and shall be corrected expeditiously.

2. -3. The fire alarm system and the sprinkler system shall be inspected by licensed, trained and qualified personnel at least semiannually for compliance with the respective codes. Inspection and Testing reports shall be maintained in the facility for a period of at least 2 years.

(u) Closure of an assisted living facility for a period of thirty days or longer shall cause its license to automatically lapse. Before the facility may reopen, it must submit a new

application for licensure. The new license shall not be granted until the facility has received a certificate of completion from the Office of Facilities Management, Alabama Department of Public Health. This entails plan review and building inspection in the same manner as a facility that has never been licensed. Plan review shall follow the most recent code requirements for new construction.

(v) Exit Marking. In ~~g~~ Group and e Congregate facilities, a sign bearing the word "EXIT" in plain legible block letters shall be placed at each exit. Additional signs shall be placed in corridors and passageways wherever necessary to indicate the direction of exit. Letters of signs shall be at least four inches high. All exit and directional signs shall be kept clearly legible by continuous internal electric illumination and have battery back-up or emergency power.

(x) Heating, Lighting, and other Service Equipment.

1. Central or individual room gas heating systems shall be of the enclosed flame type equipped with automatic flame shut-off control and shall be vented directly to the outside. Heating units of any type shall be located to avoid direct contact with any combustible material and shall be maintained in accordance with manufacturer's recommendation.

2. Open flame and portable heaters are prohibited in assisted living facilities. This does not apply to a fire place with gas logs protected as noted elsewhere in these rules.

3. Lighting shall be restricted to electricity. Electric wiring, motors, and other electrical equipment in all assisted living facilities shall be in accordance with local electrical codes and the NFPA National Electrical Code.

(4) Building Requirements-Family Assisted Living Facility.

(a) General. Family assisted living facilities shall comply with the provisions of this section. Such facilities shall be renovated to comply with the provisions of the National Fire Protection Association, *Life Safety Code Chapter for One-and Two-Family Dwellings*, and other minimum standards of safety established by the Board.

(b) Fire Protection.

1. Fire Extinguishers. A five pound ~~20~~ BC rated fire extinguisher shall be provided in the kitchen. A five pound ~~20~~ ABC rated fire extinguisher shall be provided in ~~central locations or hazardous areas such as the laundry or~~ and hall(s).

2. Smoke Detectors. Smoke detectors tied into electrical systems are required in all bedrooms, activity rooms and hallways. Detectors shall be tested monthly for local alarm activation and documented. Defective detectors shall be replaced within 24 hours.

~~(e) Heating, Lighting, and other Service Equipment.~~

~~1. Individual room gas heaters shall be of the enclosed flame type equipped with automatic flame shut-off control and shall be vented directly to the outside. Individual room heaters shall be so located as to avoid direct contact with any combustible material. Individual room heaters shall be maintained in accordance with manufacture's recommendation.~~

~~2. Open flame gas heaters are prohibited in assisted living facilities.~~

~~3. Lighting shall be restricted to electricity. Electric wiring, motors, and other electrical equipment in all assisted living facilities shall be in accordance with local electrical codes and the NFPA National Electrical Code.~~

~~(c) 4. Mechanical and electrical systems shall be inspected by local building, electrical, plumbing officials, or the State Fire Marshal, or such other person(s) as the State Board of Health may request, and their recommendations relating to adequacy and safety presented to the Board.~~

(5) Building Requirements-Group Assisted Living Facilities.

(a) General. Group assisted living facilities licensed, constructed or renovated after December 25, 1991 shall be limited to one story buildings and shall comply with the currently adopted building code and National Fire Protection Association, *Life Safety Code*. Facilities, or portions of facilities, built under the currently adopted codes shall comply with the Life Safety Code chapter for New Residential Board and Care Occupancies, Impractical Evacuation Capability (excluding *NFPA 101A Alternative Approaches to Life Safety*). Facilities, or portions of facilities, built under previously adopted editions of the codes shall comply with the currently adopted *Life Safety Code* chapter for Existing Residential Board and Care Occupancies, Impractical Evacuation Capability (excluding *NFPA 101A Alternative Approaches to Life Safety*).

(b) Required Fire Exits.

1. At least two exits, remote from each other and so located that there will be no deadend corridors in excess of twenty feet, shall be provided.

2. Exits shall be ~~of such number and~~ so located that the distance of travel from the corridor door of any occupied room to an exit ~~from that floor~~ shall not exceed ~~75~~ 100 feet.

3. Each ~~occupied~~ bedroom or suite shall have at least one doorway opening directly to the outside, or to an exit corridor leading directly to the outside.

4. Exit doors shall swing to the exterior.

5. Panic hardware shall be installed on all exit doors of facilities submitted for plan review on or after October 5, 2001. As a minimum, single action hardware is required on all exit doors of existing facilities.

(c) Corridors and Passageways. Corridors and passageways used as a means of exit, or part of a means of exit, shall be at least 36 inches wide, shall be unobstructed, and shall not lead through any room or space used for a purpose that may obstruct free passage.

(d) Smoke Barrier Separations.

1. Buildings exceeding 3,000 square feet in area shall be divided into separate areas by smoke barriers so located as to provide ample space on each side for approximately one half the beds. Smoke barriers shall have a fire-resistive rating of not less than one hour or minimum one half hour for existing sprinkled facilities. Doors provided in such smoke barriers shall be smoke-resistive doors, so installed that they may normally be kept in open position, but will close automatically upon fire alarm activation.

2. ~~Smoke barriers shall have a fire-resistive rating of not less than one hour. Doors in smoke barriers shall be provided with appropriate hardware to ensure a protected primary means of escape. Duct penetrations in smoke barriers shall be properly protected with fire/smoke dampers. Penetrations of barriers with wiring, conduits, pipes, etc., shall be sealed to maintain the fire and smoke rating. Doors provided in smoke barriers shall be smoke-resistive, so installed that they may normally be kept in the open position, but will close automatically upon fire alarm activation.~~

3. Duct penetrations in smoke barriers shall be properly protected with fire/smoke dampers.

4. Penetrations of smoke barriers with wiring, conduits, pipes, etc., shall be sealed to maintain the fire and smoke rating.

~~(e) Heating, Lighting, and Other Service Equipment.~~

1. ~~Individual room gas heaters shall be of the enclosed flame type equipped with automatic flame shut-off control and shall be vented directly to the outside. Individual room heaters shall be located to avoid direct contact with any combustible material. Open flame heaters and portable space heaters are prohibited.~~

2. ~~Lighting shall be restricted to electricity. Electric wiring, motors, and other electrical equipment installed after the effective date of these rules shall be in accordance with local electrical codes and the NFPA National Electrical Code.~~

(6) Building Requirements-Congregate Assisted Living Facility.

(a) General. Congregate assisted living facilities licensed, constructed or renovated shall ~~comply with the building code and National Fire Protection Association, *Life Safety Code*. Facilities, or portions of facilities, build under the currently adopted codes shall comply with the building code and the *Life Safety Code* chapter for New Residential Board and Care Occupancies, Impractical Evacuation Capability, thereby requiring compliance with the~~

requirements for limited care facilities in the “New Health Care Occupancies” Chapter of the *Life Safety Code* (excluding *NFPA 101A, Alternative Approaches to Life Safety*). Facilities, or portions of facilities, built under previously adopted editions of the codes shall comply with the currently adopted *Life Safety Code* chapter for Existing Residential Board and Care Occupancies, Impractical Evacuation Capability, thereby requiring compliance with the requirements for limited care facilities in the “Existing Health Care Occupancies” Chapter for the *Life Safety Code* (excluding *NFPA 101A Alternative Approaches to Life Safety*).

~~(b) Stairways. Handrails shall be provided on both sides of the stairs. The stairs and handrails shall be kept in good repair.~~

~~(b)~~ (b) Exit doors. Panic hardware shall be installed on all exit doors.

~~(c)~~ (c) Corridors and Passageways. Corridors and passageways shall be unobstructed and shall not lead through any room or space used for a purpose that may obstruct free passage.

~~(d)~~ (d) In new construction, the temperature of hot water accessible to residents shall be automatically regulated by tempering valves and a circulating pump system, unless the water heater is dedicated to resident use.

~~(f) The use of portable heaters is prohibited.~~

(e) Utility rooms shall be provided for each floor of Congregate assisted living facilities. The following equipment shall be provided:

1. Paper towel holder with an adequate supply of paper towels
2. Wall cabinet or shelves
3. Table or counter
4. Soap dispenser with soap
5. Sink - counter top, wall or floor mounted
6. Space and facilities for cleaning equipment and supplies

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Statutory Authority: *Code of Alabama, 1975, 222120, et. seq.*

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