

MINUTES

HEALTHCARE INTERPRETATIONS TASK FORCE

18 MAY 1999
 RENAISSANCE HOTEL
 BALTIMORE, MD

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM.
2. Members and guests present were:

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Ed Bleischmidt	IFMA
Doug Erickson	ASHE
John Fishbeck	JCAHO
Tom Gardner	AHCA
Tom Jaeger	AHCA
Phil Jose	VA
Robert Solomon	NFPA
Sue McLaughlin	ASHE (Guest)

3. There was no formal agenda for this meeting. Carryover items from the April 1999 meeting were discussed as follows:
 - A. Revised language for two of the three questions concerning what may or may not be added to corridor doors was reviewed. Based on this, it was agreed that the HITF would ask for an FI from the SAF-HEA TC concerning this issue.
 - B. A motion was made and seconded to proceed with a request for a TIA to both Chapters 12 and 13 of NFPA 101, 1997 with regard to the issue of suite design, arrangement and supervision. Phil Jose will finalize language for the TIA and submit it to NFPA on behalf of the HITF. Robert Solomon will see what the protocol would be to also have this TIA (if it passes TC ballot) processed in NFPA 101, 2000 ed.
 - C. In an item related to B, Phil Jose is submitting an FI request to NFPA concerning use of the suite areas for uses beyond patient sleeping.
4. New Business. The following issues were discussed:
 - Classification of Hospice Care Facilities. An informal poll was done to see how the HITF members would classify hospice care facilities. The unanimous opinion was "residential Board and Care". There is no further action on this item.
 - Requirements for Staff to Carry Keys. VA representative had a question distributed concerning what staff in a facility was expected to carry a key to unlock doors from certain patient rooms or areas. The HITF elected to not take a formal action on this issue as there are too many variables involved. In the VA case, a custodial worker who does cleaning in all parts of the facility

was cited by a JCAHO inspector for not having a key. The HITF believed this situation to be extreme in that no one felt that every individual who may be in an area where patients are in a locked environment would or should be expected to carry a key.

5. Old Business. Discussions were held concerning:

- **Publication of Interpretations.** The HITF was informed that IFMA and HCFA are going to be publishing the interpretations. IFMA will use the next edition of their newsletter to accomplish this. It is the understanding of the HITF that HCFA will be using one of their update publications to accomplish this goal as well.
- **HITF Participation.** HCFA has continued to state that they are having some difficulty in formally participating in the HITF since they do not use the 1997 LSC. Reality is, however, that HCFA does render interpretations or grant certain waivers based upon the 1997 LSC and that HCFA representatives fully participated in the development of the both the 1997 and 2000 editions of NFPA 101. IFMA participation was to be reviewed at the IFMA Executive Board meeting that was to be held on 19 May 1999.

6. Date and location for next meeting. The HITF will plan to meet on 9 September, 1999 at JCAHO headquarters. If there is a light agenda, we will likely not meet until 2:00 PM on that day. A memo for agenda items will be sent out in July so we can gauge how much time should be allocated.

7. Adjournment . The meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Minutes prepared by Robert Solomon, PE NFPA