

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This project requested a review of the Life Safety Code NFPA 101 changes in health care occupancy requirements from the 1985 edition to the 2012 edition and a subsequent evaluation of the related updates to the Guide On Alternate Approaches to Life Safety NFPA 101 A - Fire Safety Evaluation System (FSES) for health care occupancies. The team reviewed the changes, evaluated trends in the health care setting, reviewed the FSES mandatory values and had subject matter experts review, meet and discuss the findings.

The conclusions: The 2013 FSES remains a valid tool.

- Minor clarifications or adjustments in the FSES should be considered to address textile wall coverings, oversize suites, zone dimensions and dead ends in a single safety parameter, and in a single zone evaluation for a building.
- The Alternative Approaches to Life Safety Technical Committee should consider addressing inspection testing and maintenance.
- The Alternative Approaches to Life Safety Technical Committee should consider a new Delphi Group to verify the acceptable levels of risk have not changed due to recent trends in health care.