NFPA® 99-2012
Health Care Facilities Code
TIA Log No. 1086
Reference: 7.3.3.1.1, 7.3.3.1.2, and 7.4.3.1.1
Comment Closing Date: February 13, 2013
Submitter: Chad Beebe, ASHE - AHA

1. In 7.3.3.1.1, 7.3.3.1.2, and 7.4.3.1.1, replace the term “audiovisual” with “audible/visible” to read as follows:

7.3.3.1.1 General. The nurse call systems shall communicate patient and staff calls for assistance and information in health care facilities. The nurse call systems shall be audible/visible type and listed for the purpose.

7.3.3.1.2 Patient Area Call Station. Each patient bed location shall be provided with a calling device. Not more than two calling devices, serving adjacent beds, shall be served by a single audible/visible call station providing two-way voice communication.

7.4.3.1.1 General. The nurse call system shall communicate patient and staff calls for assistance and information in health care facilities. The nurse call system shall be the audible/visible or visual type (using light and tone signals only to communicate calls) and shall be listed for the purpose.

Submitter’s Substantiation: The term “audiovisual” means two way communication to the manufactures. This could be huge problem for many of the smaller, rural, or critical access hospitals that only use a light and chime or tone to communicate. Additionally, there is no need for two-way verbal communication in critical care rooms. I don’t think two-way communications were the intent of the task group that wrote this section for the nurse call system.

Emergency Nature: This could be huge problem for many of the smaller, rural or critical access hospitals as it would require them to upgrade to this compatibility as portions of systems are replaced. This needs to be fixed in the 2012 edition so that the federal government can adopt the more current edition without undue hardship on facilities.

Anyone may submit a comment by the closing date indicated above. To submit a comment, please identify the number of the TIA and forward to the Secretary, Standards Council, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471.