

Prepublication Requirements

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Requirement Revisions Related to NFPA Codes and CMS CoPs

Joint Commission has approved the following revisions for prepublication. While revised requirements are published in the semiannual updates to the print manuals (as well as in the online E-dition®), accredited organizations and paid subscribers can also view them in the monthly periodical Joint Commission Perspectives®. To begin your subscription, call 800-746-6578 or visit <http://www.jcrinc.com>.

APPLICABLE TO THE AMBULATORY HEALTH CARE ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

March 1, 2026

Environment of Care (EC) Chapter

EC.02.03.03

The organization conducts fire drills.

Element(s) of performance for EC.02.03.03

Current EP 3	<p>When quarterly fire drills are required, they are unannounced and held at unexpected times and under varying conditions. Fire drills include transmission of fire alarm signal and simulation of emergency fire conditions.</p> <p>Note 1: When drills are conducted between 9:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M., the organization may use a coded announcement to notify staff instead of activating audible alarms.</p> <p>Note 2: Fire drills vary by at least one hour for each shift from quarter to quarter, through four consecutive quarters.</p> <p>Note 3: For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 20/21: 7.1; 7.1.7; 7.2; 7.3.</p>
Revised EP 3	<p>When quarterly fire drills are required, they are unannounced and held at unexpected times and under varying conditions. Fire drills include transmission of fire alarm signal and simulation of emergency fire conditions.</p> <p>Note 1: When drills are conducted between 9:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M., the organization may use a coded announcement to notify staff instead of activating audible alarms.</p> <p>Note 2: For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 20/21: 7.1; 7.1.7; 7.2; 7.3.</p>

Life Safety (LS) Chapter

LS.03.01.10

Building and fire protection features are designed and maintained to minimize the effects of fire, smoke, and heat.

Note 1: This standard applies to sites of care where four or more patients at the same time are provided anesthesia, outpatient, or emergency or urgent care services that render patients incapable of saving themselves in the event of an emergency in the organization.

Note 2: This standard applies to all ambulatory surgical centers and outpatient surgical departments seeking accreditation for Medicare certification purposes, regardless of the number of patients served.

Note 3: In leased facilities, the elements of performance of this standard apply only to the space in which the accredited organization is located; all exits from the space to the outside at grade level; and any Life Safety Code building systems that support the space (for example, fire alarm system, automatic sprinkler system).

Element(s) of performance for LS.03.01.10

Current EP 6 The fire protection ratings for opening protectives in fire barriers ~~and fire-rated smoke barriers~~ are as follows:

- Three hours in three-hour barriers
- Ninety minutes in two-hour barriers
- Forty-five minutes in one-hour barriers

Note: Doors that separate the ambulatory health care occupancy from other tenants or other occupancies (except health care occupancies) do not need to meet the 45-minute rating as long as they are constructed of not less than 1¾-inch thick, solid bonded wood-core or equivalent and must be equipped with positive latches.

- Twenty minutes in thirty-minute barriers

(For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 8.3.3.2; 8.3.4.2; Table 8.3.4.2; 20/21.3.7.1; NFPA 80-2010: 5.2.13.3)

Note 1: Labels on fire door assemblies must be maintained in legible condition.

Note 2: For ambulatory surgical centers that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: The organization meets the applicable provisions of the Life Safety Code Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA) 12-1.

Revised EP 6 The fire protection ratings for opening protectives in fire barriers are as follows:

- Three hours in three-hour barriers
- Ninety minutes in two-hour barriers
- Forty-five minutes in one-hour barriers

Note: Doors that separate the ambulatory health care occupancy from other tenants or other occupancies (except health care occupancies) do not need to meet the 45-minute rating as long as they are constructed of not less than 1¾-inch thick, solid bonded wood-core or equivalent and must be equipped with positive latches.

- Twenty minutes in thirty-minute barriers

(For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 8.3.3.2; 8.3.4.2; Table 8.3.4.2; 20/21.3.7.1; NFPA 80-2010: 5.2.13.3)

Note 1: Labels on fire door assemblies must be maintained in legible condition.

Note 2: For ambulatory surgical centers that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: The organization meets the applicable provisions of the Life Safety Code Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA) 12-1.