



Life Safety Code – Background Information

The ESRD Conditions for Coverage that were released on April 15, 2008 now include requirements from the Life Safety Code 2000 edition. Since the renal community may not be aware of the Life Safety Code, the following information from the National Fire Protection Administration (NFPA) and Wikipedia may be helpful to assist in understanding the background of the code. Facilities are encouraged to become familiar with the Conditions for Coverage requirements related to the Life Safety Code.

History

The Life Safety Code was originated in 1913 and led to the preparation of standards for the construction of stairways, fire escapes, and similar structures; for fire drills in various occupancies and for the construction and arrangement of exit facilities for factories, schools and other occupancies, which form the basis of the present Code.

After a disastrous series of fires between 1942 and 1946, including the Coconut Grove Night Club fire in Boston, which claimed the lives of 492 people and the Winecoff hotel in Atlanta which claimed 119 lives, the *Building Exits Code* began to be utilized as potential legal legislation.

The Life Safety Code is unique in that it applies to existing structures as well as new structures. When a Code revision is adopted into local law, existing structures have a grace period before they must comply, but all structures must comply with code.

All or part of a code may be adopted as regulations in a jurisdiction and enforced by an inspector, zoning board, fire marshal, or other officials. The Life Safety Code deals with hazards in buildings, public conveyances and occupancies, and are coordinated with other codes and standards such as electrical, fuel-gas, mechanical, plumbing, energy, and residential. Regardless of official adoption as regulations, life safety code provides a valuable source for determination of liability in accidents, and many codes and related standards are sponsored by insurance companies.

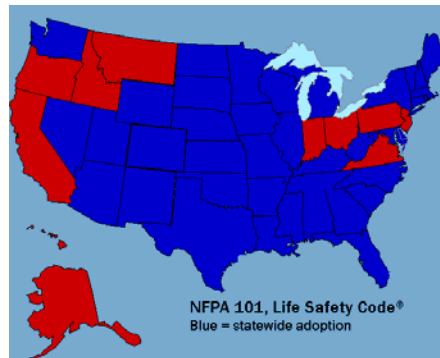
The Life Safety Code is coordinated with other building codes and standards such as electrical (National Electric Code NFPA70), fuel-gas, mechanical, plumbing, energy, and residential.

More Information:

NFPA Web Site: <http://www.nfpa.org/index.asp>

NFPA 101 Life Safety Code:

<http://www.nfpa.org/aboutthecodes/AboutTheCodes.asp?DocNum=101>



States Adopting NFPA 101

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