

Date: May 5, 1994 BQC-94-034

To: Nursing Homes NH 21
Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled FDD 15
Hospitals HOSP 13
Ambulatory Surgical Center ASC 3

From: Judy Fryback, Director
Bureau of Quality Compliance

Subject: Life Safety Code Regional Program Letter No. 94-03 on Casters on Beds

Enclosed is a copy of Life Safety Code Regional Program Letter 94-03 which transmits interpretive guideline update dealing with casters on beds. We are also including copies of pages taken from the 1991 Life Safety Code (LSC) Handbook.

This Regional Program Letter indicates that for federal purposes, the requirements of the 1967, 1973, 1981 and 1985 LSC for bed casters will no longer be enforced. This decision is based on the changes made in the 1991 and 1994 edition of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) LSC sections 31-4 through 31-4.2.3.

The Bureau will waive the requirements of the referenced Life Safety Codes in Wisconsin Administrative Code HSS 132 as they pertain to the requirement for casters on all beds.

Please note, however, that survey staff from the Bureau of Quality Compliance will be expected to review the evacuation plans and the training of staff to ensure that patients/residents/clients will be provided with appropriate action in a fire situation. Facilities should review the individual needs of their residents to determine if sufficient staff are available at all hours of operation to adequately evacuate residents.

Please share this information with the appropriate staff. Direct any questions you may have to Stephen D. Schlough, P.E., Chief, Hospital and Health Services Section at (608) 266-3878.

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cc: -BQC Staff -Mark Bunge, BPH
-Office of Legal Counsel -Renal Dialysis Network
-Ann Haney, DOH Admin. -Commission on Geriatric Health
-Kevin Piper, BHCF Dir. -WI Health Care Association
-HCFA, Region V -WI Assn. of Medical Directors
-Illinois State Agency -Admin., Division of Care and Treatment
-Ohio State Agency Facilities
-Michigan State Agency -WI Assn. of Hospital SW and Discharge
-Indiana State Agency Planners
-Minnesota State Agency -Bd. on Aging & Long Term Care
-WI Coalition for Advocacy -Bur. of Design Prof., DRL
-Serv. Employees Intn'l Union -Bureau of DD Services
-WI Counties Assn. -WI Hospital Association
-WI Assn. of Homes & Serv/Aging -LTC BQC Memo Subscribers
-WI Health Info. Mgmt. Assn. -Non-LTC BQC Memo Subscribers

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Health Care Financing Administration
Region V
105 West Adams Street
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Refer to: CR24

April 1994

LIFE SAFETY CODE REGIONAL PROGRAM LETTER NO. 94-03

Subject: CASTERS ON BEDS

The purpose of this program letter is to transmit a Life Safety Code (LSC) interpretive update with respect to casters on beds. To continue our efforts to assure consistent application of the LSC requirements across our region, please share the enclosed update with your Fire Authorities and relevant State surveyor staff.

If you have any questions, please contact our Regional Engineer, Winston Dawson, at (312) 353-2852.

/s/ Winston Dawson
Regional Engineer
Survey & Certification Review Branch
Division of Health Standards & Quality

/s/ Charles Bennett
Branch Chief
Survey & Certification Review Branch
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Enclosure