



# DQA CODE QUESTION AND ANSWER

## Q&A 101-1 Alcohol Based Hand Rubs (ABHR)

Occupancy: Hospital, Nursing Home, ASC, ESRD

This response is issued to provide general guidance to designers, facilities, and DQA regulators in Wisconsin. Individual situations may be considered, so contact the assigned DQA regulator. DQA reserves the right to revise any and all responses since the codes, standards, and conditions used to formulate this answer are subject to change. Nothing in this response can be construed as a waiver or variance. This response does not supersede or waive plan review authority.

### 1. Question

What are the code requirements for installing alcohol based hand rubs (ABHR)?

### 2. Code Quotation

42 CFR 482.41 (hospitals), 485.623 (critical access hospitals), 483.70 (nursing homes), and 416.44 (ambulatory surgery centers), describe the regulatory references.

### 3. Response

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on October 25, 2002, issued the Guidelines for Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings [MMWR 2002; 51 (No. RR-16)], which highly recommends the placement of alcohol-based hand rub solutions in convenient locations of patient care areas of health care organizations.

NFPA issued a Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA 00-1) to the 2000 edition of NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, effective May 5, 2004, that permitted the installation and use of ABHR's dispensers when installed in compliance with seven conditions.

CMS adopted the NFPA amendment to the NFPA 101 (2000 edition) to permit installing ABHR in corridors, since they have been shown to be an effective means of infection prevention and control. CMS provided nationwide clarification via a federal memo S&C 05-33 issued in 2005.

The following requirements must be met:

1. Corridors must be at least 6 ft wide.
2. ABHR must be no larger than 0.3 gallon (1.2 Liter) in rooms, corridors, and spaces open to corridors. ABHR must be no larger than 0.5 gallon (2 Liter) when located within a suite.
3. There can be a maximum of 10 gallons in any smoke compartment outside of a storage cabinet (i.e., maximum of 33 of the 0.3 gallon units in a corridor in the same smoke compartment). Quantities over 5 gallons must comply with NFPA 30.
4. ABHR can be no closer than 4 ft apart from each other.
5. ABHR can not be installed over or adjacent to outlets, switches or other ignition sources. (DHS / DQA has interpreted "adjacent" to mean any source of ignition that is within 6" horizontally of the dispenser nozzle of the ABHR. This interpretation was given in 2008 under K211 of DQA Memo 08-001.)
6. ABHR cannot be installed over carpet, unless the entire smoke compartment is sprinklered.
7. ABHR units can not project further than 6" into the egress path.

**Position:** Follow previous guidance provided via NFPA TIA 00-1, CMS Memo S&C 05-33 and DQA memo 08-001. The federal and state memorandums are available at: [http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/ri\\_dsl/PlanReview/index.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/ri_dsl/PlanReview/index.htm)

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### 4. DQA Final Action

**DQA Fire Authority Approval:** David R. Soens

**Date:** September 2, 2011