

Codes and Standards

As a facility operations manager, there are multiple codes and standards that we must comply. Often the most current code is not the edition we are held accountable to. The agency performing the survey will use the currently approved version for the agency that they represent. Given this predicament, assembled below are resources available online that provide the latest guidance to assist in making the right decision. The links and documents are also available on FHEA.ORG under the codes and standards section.

The first code reference is the tool ASHE developed which provides a crosswalk between NFPA, ICC and the Joint Commission standards. This is a national tool that does NOT take into account state level regulations. This may be found at; <http://www.ashe.org/resources/member/downloads/ASHE-K-Tag-Crosswalk.pdf>.

The state of Florida approves codes for use by AHCA and facilities under AHCA's jurisdiction. The latest approved codes may be found at; <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/RuleNo.asp?id=69A-3.012> Click view rule in upper left corner. The state fire marshal updates the Florida rules every three years, with December 2020 being the next anticipated update. Worthy of note, AHCA and CMS are on different versions of NFPA 101, AHCA 2015, CMS 2012. AHCA requires all fires and explosions be reported within 15 days of the event. The Fire Incident Report may be found at; <http://ahca.myflorida.com/MCHQ/Plans/pdfs/Fire.pdf> Many of the Florida requirements can be found at; http://ahca.myflorida.com/MCHQ/Plans/Forms_Rules_Presentations.shtml

CMS publishes their Life Safety Code survey report online for hospitals. Locate this report at; <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/Downloads/CMS2786R.pdf>

These tools will be kept current on the FHEA.ORG website, keep up the good battle while ensuring the building occupants safe.