

**OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL**  
*Fire & Life Safety Services*  
**TECHNICAL INFORMATION BULLETIN #7**

**“Skilled Nursing Facility Certification Approval Criteria”**

Nursing facilities that are certified and licensed for long-term care may choose to upgrade their certification/licenses to include skilled nursing care. This technical bulletin addresses the requirements specified under the *Oregon Uniform Fire Code (OUFC)* that apply to these conditions and what is required of a facility when requesting this certification/license upgrade. *OUFC 102.1*

The following procedure shall be followed when requesting skilled certification under the regulations and oversight of Seniors and People with Disabilities Services (SPDS) of the Department of Human Services, State of Oregon.

**NOTE: This procedure is in addition to those required by SPDS.**

1. The facility shall submit written notification of this request to the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM), 4760 Portland Road NE, Salem OR 97305, attention Health Care Facilities (HCF) Compliance Specialist.
2. The OSFM HCF Compliance Specialist shall notify the Deputy State Fire Marshal (DSFM) assigned to the facility requesting this upgrade.
3. In order to become familiarized with the existing conditions of the facility in question, the DSFM may choose to conduct an on-site inspection to determine if all required fire and life safety standards have been met. NOTE: If there are standards that have not been met, the DSFM will issue the facility a Statement of Deficiencies specifying those conditions that must be corrected.
4. The facility shall submit a Plan of Correction as required for routine inspections. All non-conforming standards shall be corrected prior to receiving approval by the Office of State Fire Marshal.
5. Once any required corrections have been completed, the OSFM HCF Compliance Specialist will send a letter of acknowledgement to the facility, and a copy will be placed in the facility's file at the Salem OSFM office.

The requirements of NFPA 99 shall apply to facilities that request skilled nursing certification/licenses. Specifically, Section 16-3.3 describes the requirements for essential electrical distribution systems (Type 2 system).

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NOTE: An exception to these requirements is outlined in Section 16-3.3.2, as follows:

*Any free-standing nursing home that:*

- ? *Maintains admitting and discharge policies that preclude the provision of care for any patient or resident who needs to be sustained by electrical life support equipment, AND*
- ? *Offers no surgical treatment requiring general anesthesia, AND*
- ? *Provides an automatic battery-powered system or equipment that will be effective for at least 1 ½ hours and is otherwise in accordance with NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, and NFPA 70, National Electrical Code, and that will be capable of supplying lighting of at least 1 ft-candle to exit lights, exit corridors, stairways, nursing stations, medication preparation areas, boiler rooms, and communications areas. This system must also supply power to operate all alarm systems.*

In order for a facility to use this exception, written policies shall be current, maintained on site, and available for periodic review by the fire marshal during inspections.