



Adoption of 2018 FGI Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Oregon Health Authority - Facilities Planning & Safety Unit (FPS) is adopting the 2018 Facilities Guidelines Institute (FGI) design standards, with Oregon amendments. The FGI guidelines will replace existing Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) as they relate to the built environment of acute non-long-term health care facilities. Below is a list of frequently asked questions and responses.

Question: What is the current design standard used by FPS?

Answer: Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) grants FPS the authority to regulate the built environment of licensed non-long-term health care facilities. The specific design standards are provided in Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs). The existing OAR built environment rules are loosely based on an early 1990's edition of FGI.

Question: What facilities are affected by the adoption of the 2018 edition of FGI?

Answer: FPS reviews acute non-long-term care facilities as regulated by Oregon Health Authority. The following facility types will be affected by the adoption of FGI:

- Hospitals
- Psychiatric hospitals
- Rehabilitation hospitals
- Hospital licensed outpatient clinics
- Hospital outpatient surgery
- Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASC)
- Extended Stay Centers (ESC)
- Birthing centers
- Renal dialysis facilities
- Special Inpatient Care Facilities (SICFs) which include:
 - Inpatient hospice
 - Inpatient substance use disorder treatment
 - Religious nonmedical health care

The adoption of FGI will not affect the long-term care facilities regulated by the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS). FPS provides review services on behalf of DHS. These facilities include:

- Residential Care Facilities (RCF)
- Assisted Living Facilities (ALF)
- Memory Care Communities (MCC)
- Nursing homes

Question: Who is the Facilities Guidelines Institute (FGI) and what is their history?

Answer: The Facilities Guidelines Institute (FGI) was founded as a non-profit in 1998. The 2001 edition of the Guidelines was the first publication by this non-profit group, which included members of American Institute of Architects (AIA), the American Society for Healthcare Engineering (ASHE), the National Institute of Health (NIH), and other state authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs).

Question: Oregon will join 39 other states to adopt FGI in addition to 3 more states that accept it as a means to equivalency. What does this mean to the healthcare industry overall and within Oregon?

Answer: This near-universal level adoption will allow design and medical professionals to have transferrable knowledge and consensus application for all acute care facilities under their review and care.

Question: How often is FGI amended?

Answer: FGI releases new guidelines every four years. A committee to oversee the revisions is established three years prior to the next adoption cycle.

Question: How often will Oregon amend and adopt newer versions of FGI?

Answer: The revision interval will depend on stakeholder request and FPS availability to convene workgroups and committees to review newly proposed rules.

Question: So, the OARs originated from the early 1990's and FGI is revised every 4 years. Why is Oregon not current?

Answer: FPS is adopting the 2018 edition of FGI in response to stakeholder request. FGI is not a federally mandated regulatory standard. CMS acknowledges the design standard as an acceptable means to compliance but does not demand state adoption. In attempt to modernize our regulatory oversight, FPS is providing a publicly driven process for adopting a design standard to best fit the needs of the people and the licensed healthcare facilities within the State of Oregon.

Question: What does the adoption process look like?

Answer: FPS formed a workgroup to review and propose amendments to the 2018 FGI. Invitations were sent to known facility managers, architects, engineers, and representative professional organizations. An initial meeting to discuss the process was held in January 2018 with 27 attendees. In the Spring of 2018, FPS contracted with the Institute for Conflict Management (ICM) to provide facilitation of workgroup meetings. The workgroup was convened in June 2018 and began meeting monthly to discuss the content of the 2018 FGI and to review proposed amendments. The final workgroup meeting was held in March 2019. During each workgroup meeting, FPS staff presented a list of proposed edits and justification for the edit. These proposed edits were either generated by FPS or by stakeholder request. After an amendment was proposed, the workgroup had a discussion and made a recommendation to FPS to either accept or reject the proposed edit. All workgroup feedback and recommendation was documented.

After adjournment of the workgroup, FPS reviewed the workgroup’s feedback for conflict resolution on a line item basis requesting management decision as needed to determine if the proposed rule amendment should proceed or be abandoned. With this resolution, the final proposed rule language was generated by FPS’s Rules Coordinator within the Health Care Regulation and Quality Improvement program and submitted for official public comment during the rules adoption process. Public comments can be submitted from anyone, either orally at a public hearing or written; previous participation in the workgroup is not required. The public comment period was provided in August 2019 and birth center public comment will likely be in October or November 2019.

Question: How is the FGI different from built environment OARs?

Answer: The existing OARs include a numbering system for the different categories of Facilities. All facilities regulated by FPS have an OAR chapter number that begins with 333 (Oregon Health Authority - Public Health Division). The next three digits describe the division number (facility type) and last 4 digits describe the rule number (specific categories). The existing OARs do not divide the requirements based on hospital inpatient or outpatient licensed services.

OAR	FGI
333=chapter #	2.1 Chapter
535=division #	2.1-1 Section
0100=rule #	2.1-1.1 Subsection
	2.1-1.1.1 Subsection
	2.1-1.1.1.1 Subsection
	(1) Paragraph
	(a) Subparagraph
	(i) Subparagraph

The 2018 edition of FGI is available as a 3-book series or online. The books are divided by facility type: Hospital, Outpatient, and Residential Health. These categories reflect and respect the differing levels of care and acuity in each facility type. Within both the Hospital and Outpatient books, the content is further divided into three chapters: Part 1 General; Part 2 Facility Types; and Part 3 ASHRAE 170 Ventilation Requirements. The Residential Health book is organized into five chapters: Part 1 General; Part 2 Common Elements; Parts 3 through 5 cover Facility Types and Support Services. In all three categories, the first two digits establish the topic generally followed up by a dash. The numbers following the dash provide specific requirements. 2018 Outpatient FGI discusses flooring requirements in *2.1-7.2.3.1. The asterisk informs the reader that there is Appendix material that addresses the topic further. Appendix material appears in a gray box at the bottom of the page and begins with the letter “A” in front of the numbers. Appendix material is not enforceable by FPS as it is advisory language only.

Question: How can I access the FGI?

Answer: Familiarize yourself with FGI here: <https://www.fgiguideelines.org/>. To purchase the original 2018 FGI documents **without** Oregon amendments, visit fgi.MADCAD.com. Purchasing options include single-user licenses, site licenses, and paperback copies of the books. Printed copies of original published FGI (without incorporated Oregon Amendments) are available for inspection in the Division during office hours. FPS is located at 800 NE Oregon Street - Suite 465, Portland Oregon 97232. FPS is coordinating with MADCAD for publishing a compiled document that includes Oregon amendments, but no official document is available yet. FPS will provide the specific adopted amendments on both the FPS website and on the Oregon Secretary of State website.

Question: Can I still use the existing built environment OARs?

Answer: FGI rule adoption will be filed with the Secretary of State on or after October 1st, 2019 but not effective (enforceable) until January 01, 2020. This means that facilities and designers can choose to comply with FGI or existing built environment OARs for the remainder of the calendar year to help ease the transition to a new design standard. During this transition, the FPS staff will coordinate with the applicant team for which rules they wish to be reviewed under. As of January 01, 2020, FPS will not allow any further usage of existing built environment OARs for new project submittals.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact us through FPS's general email at mailbox.fps@state.or.us or by phone (971) 673-2949.