



COMMISSIONER  
Adelaide Horn

September 17, 2007

To: All Medicare- and/or Medicaid-Participating Nursing Facilities

Re: Provider Letter 07-27 – Life Safety Code Enforcement Guidelines

This letter is being issued to clarify that the federal nursing home regulations at 42 Code of Federal Regulations Part 488, Subpart F, are applicable to Life Safety Code surveys as well as health surveys. The process used in applying the enforcement regulations to Life Safety Code surveys is outlined in Section 7410 of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) State Operations Manual (SOM) (CMS Publication 100-07). The SOM is available at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Manuals/IOM/list.asp>.

Life Safety Code deficiencies are assigned a scope and severity in the same manner as health deficiencies. Remedies related to Life Safety Code deficiencies are likewise selected in the same manner as remedies for health deficiencies.

When the health and Life Safety Code surveys occur together or within seven days of each other, one enforcement track and one set of time frames is followed for all deficiencies. If the health and Life Safety Code surveys occur more than seven days apart, two separate enforcement tracks and two separate sets of time frames are used for deficiencies, i.e., one for the Life Safety Code survey and one for the health survey.

If you need additional information or have specific questions, please contact a policy specialist at (512) 438-3161.

Sincerely,

*[signature on file]*

Veronda L. Durden  
Assistant Commissioner  
Regulatory Services

VLD:ca