

Life Safety Transition Course Glossary

Term	Definition
Accreditation	Recognition that a provider meets standards set by a national accrediting organization such as the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).
AHC	Ambulatory Healthcare Centers (see separate definition)
AHJ	Authority Having Jurisdiction (see separate definition)
Ambulatory Healthcare Centers	What the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) refers to as "ambulatory surgical centers" (ASCs), the LSC refers to as "ambulatory healthcare centers" (AHCs).
Ambulatory Surgical Centers	A place other than a hospital that does outpatient surgery. At an ambulatory (in and out) surgery center, you may stay for only a few hours or for one night.
American Osteopathic Association	An organization whose member hospitals have deemed status for Medicare certification.
Anesthetizing Areas	Areas within healthcare facilities where anesthesia is administered.
Annular Space	For the purposes of fire protection, annular space is the ring shaped space or gap around the outside of a pop, duct, chute, or other penetration of a wall or floor.
ANSI	American National Standards Institute, a group that promulgates testing and acceptance standards for industry.
AOA	American Osteopathic Association (see separate definition)
Approved	Acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ).
ASC	Ambulatory Surgical Center (see separate definition)
ASTM	American Society of Testing and Materials - an organization to establish test standards for materials
Astragal	An astragal is a projecting strip on the edge of one door in a pair of doors. It is designed to form a seal to limit smoke spread through the opening between the two doors.
Atrium	A floor opening or series of floor openings connecting two or more stories that is covered at the top of the series of openings and that is used for purposes other than an enclosed stairway
Authority Having Jurisdiction	The organization, office, or individual responsible for approving equipment, materials, an installation, or a procedure.
Automatic Transfer Switch	Equipment for transferring electrical loads from one power source to another power source.
Auxiliary Fire Alarm System	Used only in connection with a public fire alarm reporting system that is approved for the service. This type of system depends on the public fire alarm reporting system to transmit alarm signals from the protected premises to the public fire service communications center.
BLSC	Basic Life Safety Code - the name given to this course by CMS.
CAH	Critical Access Hospital (see separate definition)
Capacity of Means of Egress	The number of people an egress component can serve.
Central Station	An approved location at which fire alarm systems are monitored.
CEU	Continuing Education Unit

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CFR	Code of Federal Regulations - the codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the executive departments and agencies of the Federal government. It is divided into 50 titles that represent broad areas subject to Federal regulation. Each volume of the CFR is updated once each calendar year and is issued on a quarterly basis.
CGA	Compressed Gas Association - Since 1913, CGA has been dedicated to the development and promotion of safety standards and safe practices in the industrial and medical gas industry.
CLIA	Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act
CMS	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services - administers the Medicare and Medicaid programs
CMS-2567	A form given to facilities by the surveyor that cites deficiencies on the left side. The facility writes its Plan of Correction on the right-hand side.
CMS-2786R	Fire Safety Survey Report
Coatings	Used on interior coverings with a Class C flame spread rating to cover the original finish to lower the rate of flame spread.
Corridor Walls	Partitions that insulate means of egress from all other areas of a building.
CPSC	Consumer Product Safety Commission - a Federal regulatory agency that works to reduce the risk of injuries and deaths from consumer products through: developing voluntary standards with industry; issuing and enforcing mandatory standards; banning consumer products if no feasible standard would adequately protect the public; obtaining the recall of products or arranging for their repair; conducting research on potential product hazards; informing and educating consumers through the media
Critical Access Hospitals	A small facility that gives limited outpatient and inpatient hospital services to people in rural areas.
Custodial Care Facility	Also known as a limited care facility generally used when describing a facility housing persons incapable of self preservation because of mental retardation/developmental disability.
DACT	Digital Alarm Communicator Transmitter
Damper	A movable plate or valve in an HVAC system or wall controlling airflow. See fire damper or smoke damper.
Dead End	An area without an exit.
Dead End Corridor	A corridor without an exit at the terminal end.
Defend in Place	A concept used in planning fire and life safety in building structures where occupants may not be mobile that provides for the safety of the occupants within a building during a fire. This may mean relocation of the occupants to a separate zone
DHHS	Department of Health & Human Services - United States government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves.
Draftstop	A material, device or construction installed to restrict the movement of air within open spaces of concealed areas of building components such as crawl spaces, floor/ceiling assemblies, roof/ceiling assemblies and attics.
EES	Essential Electrical System (see separate definition)

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Egress	See Means of Egress
Emergency Forces Notification	The transmission of an alarm signal from a facility fire alarm control panel to a central station or fire department notifying them of an emergency situation at the facility.
Emergency Plans	Each healthcare facility must have an evacuation plan in place and the staff must be trained to follow it. The plan need not be posted, but it must be available to all supervisory personnel.
Emergency Power	A backup power source that is automatically activated and fully functional when normal power is lost.
Emergency System	Type 1 essential central electrical system required for essential life safety and facility operation. Comes on first and fully to support life safety and critical patient care.
Equipment System	Type 1 essential central electrical system required for essential life safety and facility operation. Handles heavy equipment and comes online after the emergency system is fully operational.
Essential Electrical System	Made up of two separate systems required for essential life safety and facility operation: the emergency system and the equipment system.
Existing	Structures and situations already in existence on the date when a particular edition of the LSC takes effect.
Exit	That portion of a means of egress that is separated from all other spaces of a building or structure by construction or equipment as required to provide a protected way of travel to the exit discharge.
Exit Access	That portion of a means of egress that leads to an Exit.
Exit Discharge	That portion of a means of egress between the determination of an exit and a public way.
Exit Passageway	A horizontal extension of an exit that normally connects a stairway to another exit component.
Extra Hazard Occupancy	Location where Class A combustibles and Class B flammables are present in storage
FACP	Fire Alarm Control Panel (see separate definition)
Fire Alarm Control Panel	A system component that receives inputs from automatic and fire alarm devices that might supply power to detection devices and to a transponder(s) or off premises transmitter(s). The control unit might also provide transfer of power to the notification appliances and transfer of condition to relays or devices connected to the control unit.
Fire Damper	A metal blind-like obstruction within a horizontal duct or opening in a wall that prevents normal air distribution and stops the propagation of fire in the event of a fire. It is triggered by a fusible link.
Fire Resistance Rating	A number giving the approximate time it takes to burn through a surface.
Fire Safety Evaluation Systems	An analytical technique based on mathematical calculations. It assesses elements of risks in healthcare facilities by assigning numerical values for each risk factor.
Fireblocking	Building materials installed to resist the free passage of flame to other areas of the building through concealed spaces.
Flame Spread Rating	A number giving the approximate time it takes to burn across the surface of something.
FRR	Fire Resistance Rating (see separate definition)
FSES	Fire Safety Evaluation System (see separate definition)

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FSR	Flame Spread Rating (see separate definition)
Fully Sprinklered Building	A building that supplies complete sprinkler protection.
Fusible Link	A device that automatically initiates some action that results in fire suppression and/or fire compartmentation.
GFCI	Ground Fault Circuit Inductor
Hazardous Areas	Areas of a structure that pose a greater than normal degree of hazard to occupants.
Hazardous Decorations	Some decorations are highly flammable, such as crepe paper and tinsel.
HCFA	Health Care Financing Administration - former name of CMS.
Hospice	A hospice provides care to terminally ill individuals. An individual is considered to be terminally ill if the medical prognosis is that the individual's life expectancy is six months or less if the illness runs its normal course. Inpatient hospices are surveyed using the requirements for a nursing home.
Hospital	A building or part of a building used for medical, psychiatric, obstetrical or surgical care on a 24-hour basis for inpatients. This includes: children's hospitals, general hospitals, mental hospitals, or any other facility providing in-patient care.
HVAC	Abbreviation for the Heating Ventilating and Air Conditioning system.
IACET	International Association for Continuing Education & Training (see separate definition)
ICFs/MR	Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded (see separate definition)
IDR	Abbreviation for Informal Dispute Resolution. Part of the enforcement process in which the facility provides information to the Survey Agency regarding disputed deficiencies found on a survey.
IG	Instructor Guide
IJ	Immediate Jeopardy - Identifies crisis situations affecting the safety and well-being of patients and residents. Noncompliance that is likely to cause or has caused serious injury, harm, impairment or death, requires direct corrective measures.
Illumination	Provides visibility to help building occupants orient themselves to their location and identify the closest and most effective routes and exits from the building at any time the building is occupied.
Interior Finish	Exposed interior surfaces of a building.
Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded	A facility which primarily provides health-related care and services above the level of custodial care to mentally retarded individuals but does not provide the level of care available in a hospital or skilled nursing facility.
International Association for Continuing Education and Training	IACET authorizes educational providers to award the IACET Continuing Education Unit (CEU).
Intumescent	Swelling or charring when exposed to flame.
Isolated	When one or a very limited number of occupants is affected and a very limited area (compartment) within the facility is also affected by a hazard.

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JCAHO	Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations – Commonly referred to as the Joint Commission. (See separate definition)
Joint Commission	A group that accredits healthcare organizations that meet standards concerning the care and treatment of patients. Generally these standards are at least as stringent as the Medicare/Medicaid requirements of CMS and allow facilities meeting J standards to be “deemed” to meet CMS standards without further survey.
Level 1 Gas & Vacuum System	Required in hospitals and healthcare facilities where patients are on mechanical or mechanical-assisted ventilation.
Level 2 Gas & Vacuum System	A medical gas and vacuum system that only has simplex systems such as a single medical air compressor, a single medical vacuum pump and a single alarm panel, etc.
Level 3 Gas & Vacuum System	Permitted in healthcare facilities where the gas system is not critical for life support.
Life Safety Code	This is the title of the code book enforced by CMS in their Medicare & Medicaid program. This is developed and promulgated by the NFPA.
Life Support	Electro-mechanical means of sustaining a patient's life.
Light Hazard Occupancy	Locations where the total amount of Class A combustible material is minor and arranged so that any resulting fire is not likely to spread rapidly.
LSC	Life Safety Code (see separate definition)
MagLock	Magnetic Lock. These devices are power-operated locks that can be remotely opened by a control signal from a fire alarm system.
Means of Egress	A continuous and unobstructed path of travel out of a building. It consists of three components: Exit Access, Exit and Exit Discharge (see separate definition for each of these components)
Medicaid	Federal/State social insurance program based on being medically indigent under State law (welfare).
Medical Gases	Gases (either piped in or in cylinders) used in healthcare occupancies for life-support.
Medicare	Federal health insurance program based on entitlement benefits.
National Fire Protection Association	A private, non-profit organization that writes and publishes the Life Safety Code and other fire safety codes and standards used by CMS.
National Fuel Gas Code	The document concerned with the proper construction, installation and maintenance of fuel gas systems --- see NFPA 54.
NF	Nursing Facility (see separate definition)
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association (see separate definition)
NFPA 10	Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers
NFPA 101	Life Safety Code
NFPA 110	Standard for Emergency and Standby Power Systems
NFPA 13	Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems.

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Term	Definition
NFPA 211	Standard for Chimneys
NFPA 22	Water Tanks for Private Fire Protection
NFPA 220	Standard on Types of Construction.
NFPA 25	Standard for the Inspection
NFPA 251	Standard Methods of Fire Tests of Building Construction and Materials
NFPA 260	Standard Methods of Tests and Classification System for Cigarette Ignition Resistance of Components of Upholstered Furniture
NFPA 261	Standard Method of Test for Determining Resistance of Mock up of Upholstered Furniture Material Assemblies
NFPA 266	Standard Method of Test for Fire Characteristics of Upholstered Furniture Exposed to Flaming Ignition Source
NFPA 30	Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code
NFPA 36	Standard for Solvent Extraction Plants
NFPA 45	Standard on Fire Protection for Laboratories Using Chemicals
NFPA 50	Bulk Oxygen Systems at Consumer Sites.
NFPA 50A	Standard for Gaseous Hydrogen Systems at Consumer Sites
NFPA 51	Standard for the Design and Installation of Oxygen-Fuel Gas Systems for Welding, Cutting and Allied Processes
NFPA 54	National Fuel Gas Code.
NFPA 58	Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code.
NFPA 70	National Electrical Code.
NFPA 701	Standard Method of Fire Tests for Flame Resistant Textiles and Films
NFPA 704	Standard System for the Identification of the Hazards of Materials for Emergency Response
NFPA 72	National Fire Alarm Code.
NFPA 80	Standard for Fire Doors and Fire Windows.
NFPA 801	Standard for Fire Protection for Facilities Handling Radioactive Materials
NFPA 82	Standard on Incinerators and Waste and Linen Handling Systems and Equipment.
NFPA 90A	Standard for the Installation of Air-Conditioning and Ventilation Systems.
NFPA 92A	Recommended Practice for Smoke-Control System.
NFPA 96	Standard for Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations.

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NFPA 99	Standard for Health Care Facilities.
Notification Circuits	The system circuits connected to the notification appliances (signals), also referred to as outputs from the FACP.
Nursing Facility	A nursing home that does not provide residents with skilled nursing care. Residents are provided with protective oversight. NFs are surveyed using the requirements for health care.
Nursing Home	a building or portion of a building used on a 24-hour basis for the housing and nursing care of 4 or more persons who, because of mental or physical incapacity, might be unable to provide for their own needs and safety without the assistance of others.
Occupancy	The purpose for which a building or portion thereof is used or intended to be used.
Online Survey Certification and Reporting System	CMS database that includes Medicare and Medicaid certified facility demographic information.
Opening Protective	A device or system used to protect an opening in a fire rated assembly.
Ordinary Hazard Occupancy	Locations where Class A combustibles and Class B flammables are present in greater amounts than expected in light-hazard occupancies.
OSCAR	Online Survey Certification and Reporting System (see separate definition)
OSCAR Report	The CMS computer system for storing survey data.
PACE	Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (see separate definition)
Pattern	When more than a very limited number of occupants are affected and more than a limited area is also affected, but the problem is not dispersed throughout the facility.
Plan of Correction	A document that provides information concerning the actions a facility is going to take to correct deficiencies found on a survey.
Plenum	An air compartment or chamber to which one or more ducts are connected and which forms part of an air distribution system.
POC	Plan of Correction (see separate definition)
Portable Fire Extinguisher: Class A	For fires of ordinary combustible materials.
Portable Fire Extinguisher: Class B	For fires of flammable liquids.
Portable Fire Extinguisher: Class C	For fires that involve energized electrical equipment where the electrical nonconductivity of the extinguishing media is of importance.
Portable Fire Extinguisher: Class K	For fires in cooking appliances that involve combustible cooking media (vegetable and animal oils and fats).
Portable Fire Extinguisher: Multipurpose	This type of extinguisher has a dry chemical agent that allows it to be used on Class A, Class B and Class C fires.
Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly	A managed care benefit for the frail elderly provided by a non-profit or public entity that features a comprehensive medical and social service delivery system. It uses a multidisciplinary team approach in an adult day health center supplemented by in-home and referral service in accordance with participants' needs.

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Proprietary Supervising Station	An installation of fire alarm systems serving contiguous and noncontiguous properties under single ownership.
Public Way	The street/sidewalk. An exit discharge goes from the exit door to a public way.
PVC	Poly Vinyl Chloride. Plastic material used to make such items as pipe, plastic sheets, window blinds, furniture covering, etc.; burns with a dense poisonous black, acrid smoke.
RACE	Acronym for fire safety and evacuation plans and is stated in a variety of ways (i.e. Respond, Alarm, Contain, Evacuate or Respond, Alarm, Compartmentalize, Extinguish or Rescue, Alarm, Contain, Extinguish)
Religious Nonmedical Health Care Institutions	Facilities that may participate in the Medicare and/or Medicaid program and provide nonmedical nursing items and services to those who choose to rely solely upon religious methods of healing and for whom the acceptance of medical services would be inconsistent with their religious beliefs. Nonmedical items and services are furnished through nonmedical nursing personnel who are experienced in caring for the physical needs of nonmedical patients.
Remote Supervising Station	Provides a connection between the protected premises and a public fire service communications center
Remoteness of Means of Egress	The LSC requires that at least two exits be located remotely from each other to limit the possibility that a single event could block all exits from a space.
RNHCI	Religious Nonmedical Health Care Institutions (see separate definition)
Scope	The extent that a deficiency is found in a facility. The defined levels are isolated, pattern or widespread.
Severity	The effect or seriousness of deficient facility practice on resident outcome. There are four levels of severity as described in the Federal Enforcement Grid: (4) Immediate Jeopardy; (3) Actual Harm; (2) No Actual Harm with Potential for More than Minimal Harm; (1) No Actual Harm with Potential for Minimal Harm.
Skilled Nursing Facility	A nursing home that provides skilled nursing care to residents such as rehabilitation activities.
SM	Student Manual
Smoke Barriers	Create safe areas of refuge within a building for occupants who have varied (and often limited) movement capabilities.
Smoke Damper	An approved damper designed to resist the passage of smoke that is provided at each air-transfer opening or duct penetration at a required smoke barrier. It is triggered by one or more smoke detectors.
Smoke Detectors: Spot Ionization	Very responsive to the invisible particles produced by most flaming fires.
Smoke Detectors: Spot Photoelectric	Use the two methods of light-scattering and light obstruction for their principles of operation.
Smoke Development	A quantitative measure of the amount of smoke produced when interior finish is tested in accordance with NFPA 225, Method of Test of Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials.
Smoke-Proof Enclosure	Serves as either vertical or horizontal exit enclosure and prevents smoke spread into an exit while occupants access the exit.
SNF	Skilled Nursing Facility (see separate definition)
SOD	Statement of Deficiencies (see separate definition)
SOM	State Operations Manual

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Special Nursing Suite	A "special nursing suite" is not defined in the Life Safety Code but it is considered a "sleeping" suite in a health care facility. A suite is a room that does not generally have walls around the beds, thus allowing more observation by staff. Examples include an intensive care unit or cardiac care unit. Suites also allow different exiting arrangements that give some flexibility to designers and users of the health care occupancy chapters of the Life Safety Code.
Sprinkler Head Type: Dry Barrel Heads	Contain extended pipe lengths (barrels) that are kept dry with a seal where the barrel is attached to the sprinkler piping.
Sprinkler Head Type: Extended Coverage Heads	Contain special extended directional discharge patterns.
Sprinkler Head Type: Pendent Mounted Heads	Attached to the bottom of the sprinkler piping.
Sprinkler Head Type: Quick Response Heads	Sprinkler head that responds to heat more quickly than standard sprinkler heads.
Sprinkler Head Type: Residential Heads	Intended for use in residential applications and now are permissible in healthcare occupancies.
Sprinkler Head Type: Sidewall Mounted Heads	Can be found in either the upright or the horizontal position.
Sprinkler Head Type: Standard Spray Heads	Contain a water spray pattern that provides fire control for a wide range of fire hazards.
Sprinkler Head Type: Upright Mounted Heads	Are attached from the top of the sprinkler piping.
Sprinklers: Dry Systems	Employ closed automatic sprinklers attached to a piping system containing air under pressure.
Sprinklers: Wet Systems	Use closed automatic sprinkler heads attached to a piping system containing water under constant pressure.
Stack Effect	The phenomenon in which air flow is driven upward through a building.
Standard or Continuing Waivers	May be granted when correcting a deficiency would require construction resulting in unreasonable financial costs, where it is impractical to change existing construction.
Statement of Deficiency	A written summary of noncompliance with regulations found during a Federal survey of complaint investigation. Statements of Deficiency are written on a CMS 2567 form.
Steiner-Tunnel Test	Used to rate the fire properties of interior finishes.
Suite	A group of connected rooms used as a unit.
Supervisory Care Facility	A building or a part of a building that provides 24-hour care for four or more mental health patients.
Time Limited or Short Term Waivers	Waivers of a specific time limit to allow for correction of a deficiency and to delay the implementation of an enforcement action.
Title XIX	Medicaid (Title 19 of the Social Security Act)
Title XVIII	Medicare (Title 18 of the Social Security Act)

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Travel Distance	The distance to an exit measured on the floor or other walking surface starting from the most remote point and ending at the center of a doorway at which an exit begins.
Trouble Signal Function	Detects any abnormal condition within the fire alarm system that could affect its proper operation and attracts attention to the system for repairs.
UL	Underwriters Laboratories, Incorporated - Trusted source across the globe for product compliance.
Uniform Signal	NFPA 72 states that the signal must be distinct so as not to be confused with anything else, such as a medical gas alarm or a timer alarm. Some facilities will have a visible signal for occupants who are deaf.
Unreasonable Hardship	Judgment made by surveyors that the mitigation of a deficiency is not cost effective to a health service provider.
Vertical Openings	Elements in a structure or building that pass through a floor or roof.
Waiver	The act or instance of waiving