

Long-Term Care Survey Alert

Don't Let K Stand For Ka-Ching

Be proactive in addressing the most frequently cited (and costly) life safety K tags in nursing facilities:

K-18 Are your corridor doors fire-resistant rated for at least 20 minutes? Any doors that protect corridors must also be designed to prevent the spread of smoke. **Tip:** Be sure older doors are not warped.

K-29 Are all hazardous areas properly separated from other areas? Check for the appropriate level of fire-rated construction. Another common tripping point: be sure all related self-closing doors are kept closed and are free to close when used (that is, do not block, tie, or prop open!).

K-62 Are you sure your sprinkler system is in good repair? Compliance requires documentation of an annual inspection by a licensed individual, with the resulting report available to surveyors.

K-147 Is all electrical wiring in compliance? **Beware power strips:** They cannot be used for high-draw appliances such as hair dryers, microwaves, coffee pots, air conditioners, refrigerators, or any medical equipment. They are also prohibited in resident rooms.

K-38 Are all corridors used for emergency egress obstruction-free? Be especially alert when renovations mean the equipment or furniture might be displaced.

K-25 Are all smoke barriers in good repair?

K-56 Is your sprinkler system in compliance as "complete" as defined by the NFPA 13, 1999 edition?

K-50 Are you doing all you need to regarding fire drills? **Essential:** Your facility is required to have distributed a fire drill plan that protects all, with regular training regarding individuals' duties. Unannounced, documented, monitored drills must be held quarterly for each shift. Attendance must be at least 90 percent.

K-144 Have you had your generators inspected and tested as required? In addition to regular testing, compliance requires documentation of an annual inspection by a licensed individual, with the resulting report available to surveyors. In addition, you are required to keep a log of maintenance as outlined by the manufacturer or your unit.