**~*Means of Egress***

**Standard LS.03.01.20**

*The hospital maintains the integrity of the means of egress.*

*Note 1: This standard applies to sites of care where four or more [patient]s at the same time are provided either anesthesia or outpatient services that render [patient]s incapable of saving themselves in an emergency in the organization.*

*Note 2: This standard applies to all hospitals seeking accreditation for Medicare certification purposes, regardless of the number of [patients]s rendered incapable.*

*Note 3: In leased facilities, the elements of performance of this standard apply only to the space in which the accredited organization is located; all exits from the space to the outside at grade level; and any Life Safety Code building systems that support the space (for example, fire alarm system, automatic sprinkler system).*

**Rationale for LS.03.01.20**

Because [patient]s are ill and in many cases cannot escape the danger of fire on their own, buildings in which [patient]s are cared for must be designed and maintained so [patient]s can be moved to safe places in the building (instead of evacuated to a place outside the building).

Means of egress include corridors, stairways, and doors that allow individuals to leave a building or to move between specific spaces in a building. They allow individuals to escape from fire and smoke, and, therefore, are an integral part of a fire protection strategy. The hospital should make sure that a sufficient number of exits are configured to protect from fire. Egress doors mustn’t be locked in a way that restricts passage to safety.

*LS.03.01.20EP1-Doors in a means of egress is not equipped with a latch or lock that requires the use of a tool or key from the egress side, unless a compliant locking configuration is used, such as a delayed-egress locking system as defined in NFPA 101-2012: 7.2.1.6.1 or access-controlled egress door assemblies as defined in NFPA 101-2012: 7.2.1.6.2. Elevator lobby exit access door locking is allowed if compliant with 7.2.1.6.3. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 20/21.2.2)*

*LS.03.01.20EP2-Any door required to be self-closing, including those in an exit stair enclosure, may be held open provided there is an automatic release device that closes the door in response to the manual fire alarm system, loss of power, and smoke detectors. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 20/21.2.2.4; 20/21.2.2.5; 7.2.1.8.2)*

*LS.03.01.20EP3-Exits discharge to the outside at grade level or through an approved exit passageway that is continuous and provides a level walking surface. The exit discharge is a hard-packed, all-weather travel surface that is free from obstructions and terminates at a public way or an exterior exit discharge. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 20/21.2.1; 20/21.2.7; 38/39.2.7; 7.1.7; 7.1.10.1; 7.2.6; 7.7)*

*LS.03.01.20EP4-The capacity of the means of egress complies with NFPA 101-2012: 7.3. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 20/21.2.3.1)*

*LS.03.01.20EP5-Exit corridors or passageways serving as a means of egress are 44 (or more) inches wide. Doors opening in the means of egress from diagnostic or treatment areas are 32 (or more) inches wide (unless the existing door opening is 34 inches). (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 20/21.2.3.2; 2.3.4)*

*LS.03.01.20EP6-Exits, exit accesses, and exit discharges are clear of obstructions or impediments to the public way, such as clutter (for example, equipment, carts, furniture), construction material, and snow and ice. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 7.1.10.1)*

*LS.03.01.20EP7-Exit access doors and exit doors are free of mirrors, hangings, or draperies that might conceal, obscure, or confuse the direction of the exit. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 20/21.2.1; 7.5.2.2.1)*

*LS.03.01.20EP8-Each floor of a building has at least two exits that are remote from each other and accessible from every part of the floor. Each smoke compartment has two distinct egress paths to exits that do not require entry into the same adjacent smoke compartment. Patient care suites larger than 2,500 square feet have two exits remotely located from each other. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 20/21.2.4.1; 2.4.2; 7.4; 38/39.2.4)*

*LS. 03.01.20EP9 new buildings are protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system, dead-end corridors are no longer than 50 feet. In new buildings not provided with automatic sprinklers throughout, dead-end corridors are no longer than 20 feet. In existing buildings, dead-end corridors are no longer than 50 feet.*

*LS.03.01.20EP10-The travel distance from any point in a room to an exit is 150 feet or less; the travel distance is 200 feet or less in buildings protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 20/21.2.6)*

*LS.03.01.20EP11-Nothing is stored in any exit enclosure. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 20/21.2.1; 7.2.2.5)*

*LS.03.01.20EP12-Means of egress are automatically and adequately illuminated at all points, including angles and intersections of corridors and passageways, stairways, stairway landings, exit doors, and exit discharges. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 20/21.2.8; 7.8)*

*LS.03.01.20EP13-Illumination in the means of egress, including exit discharge, is arranged so that failure of any single lighting unit will not result in darkness (less than 0.2 foot-candles of illumination). Emergency lighting of at least 1½-hours duration is provided automatically in accordance with NFPA 101-2012: 7.9. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 20/21.2.8; 7.8.1.4)*

*LS.03.01.20EP14-Signs reading "NO EXIT" are posted on doors to stairs in areas that are not conforming exits and that may be mistaken for exits. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 20/21.2.10; 7.10.8.3)*

*LS.03.01.20EP15-Exit signs are visible when the path to the exit is not readily apparent. Signs are adequately lit and have letters that are 4 or more inches high or 6 inches high if externally lit. (See NFPA 101-2012: 20/21.2.10; 7.10.5)*

*LS.03.01.20EP16-New buildings equipped with or requiring the use of life support systems (electro-mechanical or inhalation anesthetics) have illumination for the following: means of egress, emergency lighting equipment, exit, and directional signs supplied by the life safety branch of the electrical system described in NFPA 99-2012. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 20.2.9.2; NFPA 99-2012: 6.4.2.2.3)*

*LS.03.01.20EP17-The hospital meets all other Life Safety Code means of egress requirements related to NFPA 101-2012: 20/21.2.*

**Recommended Documents:**

**Policy for determining compliance**

**Examples:**

ME-LS.03.01.20 EP1-17 - Maintaining Means of Egress