Alcohol-Based Hand Rub Fire Safety Checklist

The “Life Safety” chapter includes a number of fire safety requirements related to alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) because it can be flammable, particularly when aerosolized, and ABHR dispensers can block corridors. These requirements are listed in Element of Performance (EP) 6 of Standard LS.02.01.30 (“The [organization] provides and maintains building features to protect individuals from the hazards of fire and smoke”) and are consistent with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Life Safety Code®\*. This checklist will help you assess your facility’s compliance with LS.02.01.30, EP 6.

Answers to all questions ideally should be Y for Yes (unless marked NA for Not Applicable). Use the Comments section to indicate any required follow-up action(s) identified by an N for No response.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Organization:  | Department/Unit:  |
| Date of Review:  | Reviewer(s):  |

| Questions | Y | N | NA | Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Is the alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) used in your facility no more than 95% alcohol? |  |  |  |  |
| For any room in a health care facility, is the capacity of individual ABHR dispensers limited to 0.32 gallon of ABHR fluid? |  |  |  |  |
| In suites (groups of rooms that for the purposes of life safety function as one big room), is the capacity of individual ABHR dispensers limited to 0.53 gallon of ABHR fluid? |  |  |  |  |
| When aerosol ABHR is used, are the aerosol dispensers no more than 18 ounces in capacity, regardless of their location? |  |  |  |  |
| Do the dispensers release ABHR only when activated and only in appropriate amounts (just enough for one use)? |  |  |  |  |
| If your facility has automatic touch-free dispensers, do they operate only when hands (or objects) are within 4 inches of the sensing device? |  |  |  |  |
| Even if hands or objects remain under automatic dispensing device sensors for a prolonged period, will the ABHR dispenser release only the amount needed for one use? |  |  |  |  |
| Are the ABHR dispensers in your facility installed, tested, refilled, and maintained according to the manufacturer’s instructions? |  |  |  |  |
| Are the ABHR dispensers in your facility installed only in corridors that are at least 6 feet wide? |  |  |  |  |
| Is there at least 4 feet of space between each ABHR dispenser?  |  |  |  |  |
| Is there at least 1 inch of space between each ABHR dispenser and an ignition source? (Note that although that’s the requirement, a separation of at least 6 inches is recommended as a best practice.) |  |  |  |  |
| As required by the *Life Safety Code*, if ABHR dispensers are in carpeted areas, is the building fully sprinklered?  |  |  |  |  |
| Are the ABHR dispensers protected against inappropriate access (such as by pediatric patients who might want to play with them or by others who might want to ingest the ABHR)?  |  |  |  |  |
| Regarding ABHR storage, are single smoke compartments in your facility limited to no more than an aggregate of 10 gallons of fluid or 1,135 ounces of aerosol—unless the ABHR is placed in an appropriate storage cabinet? (*Note that one individual ABHR dispenser per room does not count toward this total.)* |  |  |  |  |
| Does your facility store more than five gallons of ABHR in a single smoke compartment? If so, your facility must comply with NFPA’s *Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code*\* (NFPA 30-2012). |  |  |  |  |

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