Business Occupancy Life Safety Compliance Checklist

As of July 1, 2021, The Joint Commission has required hospitals, critical access hospitals, and behavioral health care and human services organizations with business occupancy facilities or sections of buildings to comply with new 05-prefaced life safety (LS) standards. Such organizations can use this checklist as a guide to assessing compliance with those standards.

Answers to all questions ideally should be Y for Yes (unless marked NA for Not Applicable). Use the Comments section to indicate specific actions prompted by an N for No response.

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

| Questions | Y | N | NA | Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Designing and Maintaining Building and Fire Protection Features | | | | |
| When the business occupancy building or section undergoes rehabilitation, does the organization comply with the applicable chapters of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) *Life Safety Code*®\*?   * Chapter 38 (New Business Occupancies) * Chapter 39 (Existing Business Occupancies) * Chapter 43 (Building Rehabilitation)   [LS.05.01.10, EP 1] |  |  |  |  |
| Is the business occupancy separated from any parking structure by at least a 2-hour fire barrier?  [LS.05.01.10, EP 2] |  |  |  |  |
| For any fire barriers, fire-rated smoke barriers, or fire-rated smoke partitions in the business occupancy, do the fire ratings of opening protectives (doors, partitions, windows, shutters, and so on) meet the following criteria?   * Three hours in three-hour barriers and partitions * 90 minutes in 2-hour barriers and partitions * 45 minutes in one-hour barriers and partitions * 20 minutes in half-hour barriers and partitions   [LS.05.01.10, EP 3] |  |  |  |  |
| Are labels on fire door assemblies maintained in legible condition?  [LS.05.01.10, EP 3] |  |  |  |  |
| *Life Safety Code*® is a registered trademark of the National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA. | | | | |
| Are vertical openings in the business occupancy protected as follows:   * In new construction, enclosures serving four or more floors must have a two-hour fire rating. * In new construction, enclosures serving three or fewer floors must have a one-hour fire rating. * In existing construction, enclosures must have a ½-hour rating. * A vertical opening below the street level that contains storage or connects with a different occupancy type must be protected.   [LS.05.01.10, EP 4] |  |  |  |  |
| Are wall or floor penetrations due to the installation of pipes, conduits, bus ducts, wire, air ducts, or pneumatic tubes sealed with an approved fire-rated material?  (*Note that nonapproved polyurethane expanding foam is not an accepted fire-rated material.*)  [LS.05.01.10, EP 5] |  |  |  |  |
| Are all doors with a fire rating of ¾ hour or longer free of coverings, decorations, or other objects applied to the door face?  (*Note that informational signs are allowed but only if applied with adhesive.*)  [LS.05.01.10, EP 6] |  |  |  |  |
| Does the business occupancy comply with all other requirements of the *Life Safety Code* related to designing and maintaining the building’s fire and smoke protection features?  [LS.05.01.10, EP 7] |  |  |  |  |
| Maintaining the Integrity of the Means of Egress | | | | |
| In a business occupancy serving 50 or more people, do all corridors or passageways have at least 44 inches of clear width?  [LS.05.01.20, EP 2] |  |  |  |  |
| Do any dead-end corridors meet the following parameters?   * In existing facilities, dead-end corridors cannot exceed 50 feet. * In new facilities, dead-end corridors cannot exceed 20 feet unless fully sprinklered. * In new facilities, fully sprinklered dead-end corridors cannot exceed 50 feet.   [LS.05.01.20, EP 3] |  |  |  |  |
| In a fully sprinklered business occupancy, is the travel distance to an exit from any point in the building or space no more than 300 feet?  [LS.05.01.20, EP 4] |  |  |  |  |
| In a business occupancy that is not fully sprinklered, is the travel distance to an exit from any point in the building or space no more than 200 feet?  [LS.05.01.20, EP 4] |  |  |  |  |
| Are the means of egress continuously illuminated in the business occupancy when it is occupied?  [LS.05.01.20, EP 5] |  |  |  |  |
| For existing construction, is emergency lighting provided in any of the following situations?   * The building is three or more stories in height. * The building has at least 100 occupants in the stories above or below the level of exit discharge. * The building has at least 1,000 total occupants.   [LS.05.01.20, EP 6] |  |  |  |  |
| For new construction, is emergency lighting provided in any of the following situations?   * The building is three or more stories in height. * The occupancy has at least 50 occupants in the stories above or below the level of exit discharge. * The building has at least 300 total occupants.   [LS.05.01.20, EP 7] |  |  |  |  |
| Does the organization ensure that doors in means of egress are not equipped with a lock or latch requiring use of a key on the egress side unless a compliant locking configuration is used (such as a delayed-egress locking system or an access-controlled egress door assembly)?  [LS.05.01.20, EP 8] |  |  |  |  |
| Does the organization meet all other business occupancy means of egress requirements in Chapter 38/39 of the *Life Safety Code*?  [LS.05.01.20, EP 9] |  |  |  |  |
| Protecting Individuals from the Hazards of Fire and Smoke | | | | |
| Are hazardous areas in the business occupancy protected from other areas by either of the following?   * A 1-hour, fire resistance–rated barrier (45-minute opening protectives) * A smoke resistive barrier and automatic sprinklers   [LS.05.01.30, EP 1] |  |  |  |  |
| Are doors in hazardous areas self-closing or automatic closing with latching hardware?  [LS.05.01.30, EP 1] |  |  |  |  |
| For exits and exit access corridors, are interior wall and ceiling finishes Class A or B?  [LS.05.01.30, EP 2] |  |  |  |  |
| Is alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) stored and handled as follows?   * ABHR must not be more than 95% alcohol. * The maximum dispenser capacity is .32 gallons of fluid (.53 gallons in suites or rooms separated from corridors) or 18 ounces of NFPA Level 1–classified aerosols. * ABHR dispensers must have at least 4 feet of horizontal spacing between them. * Dispensers must not be installed within 1 inch of an ignition source. * ABHR dispensers must be operated in accordance with manufacturer instructions for use. * ABHR must be protected against inappropriate access. * Not more than an aggregate 10 gallons of fluid or 1,135 ounces of aerosol are used in a single smoke compartment outside of a storage cabinet, excluding one individual dispenser per room.   [LS.05.01.30, EP 3] |  |  |  |  |
| Does the organization meet all other business occupancy fire and smoke protection requirements in Chapter 38/39 of the *Life Safety Code*?  [LS.05.01.30, EP 4] |  |  |  |  |
| Providing and Maintaining Fire Alarm Systems | | | | |
| For existing construction, is the business occupancy protected by a fire alarm system given any of the following circumstances?   * The building is more than three stories in height. * There are 100 or more occupants below or above the level of the exit discharge. * The building has 1,000 or more occupants   [LS.05.01.34, EP 1} |  |  |  |  |
| For existing construction requiring a fire alarm system, is the system initiated by one of the following methods?   * Manual means * A fire/smoke detection system * A fire suppression system   [LS.05.01.34, EP 1] |  |  |  |  |
| For existing construction requiring a fire alarm system, does the business occupancy comply with the following?   * The occupant notification system activates a general alarm. (*Note that notification can be made using voice communication or a public address system*.) * A fail-safe process is provided to notify emergency forces.   [LS.05.01.34, EP 1] |  |  |  |  |
| For new construction, is the business occupancy protected by a fire alarm system given any of the following circumstances?   * The building is more than three stories in height. * There are 50 or more occupants below or above the level of the exit discharge. * The building has 300 or more occupants.   [LS.05.01.34, EP 2] |  |  |  |  |
| For new construction requiring a fire alarm system, is the system initiated by one of the following methods?   * Manual means * A fire/smoke detection system * A fire suppression system   [LS.05.01.34, EP 2] |  |  |  |  |
| For new construction requiring a fire alarm system, does the business occupancy comply with the following?   * The occupant notification system activates a general alarm. * A fail-safe process is provided to notify emergency forces.   [LS.05.01.34, EP 2] |  |  |  |  |
| Does the organization meet all other related *Life Safety Code* fire alarm requirements for business occupancies?  [LS.05.01.34, EP 3] |  |  |  |  |
| Providing and Maintaining Equipment for Extinguishing Fires | | | | |
| For new construction, does the organization have a process for emergency response notification that includes notifying both of the following?   * The fire department * The local emergency organization (if available) |  |  |  |  |
| For existing construction, when the existing fire alarm system is replaced, does the organization notify emergency forces in accordance with the *Life Safety Code*, Section 39.3.4.4? |  |  |  |  |
| Is the travel distance from any point to the nearest portable fire extinguisher no more than 75 feet? |  |  |  |  |
| Do portable fire extinguishers have appropriate signage? |  |  |  |  |
| Is each portable fire extinguisher stored in a cabinet or secured on a hanger made for the extinguisher? |  |  |  |  |
| Is each portable fire extinguisher installed at least 4 inches above the floor? |  |  |  |  |
| Is each portable fire extinguisher that is 40 pounds or less installed so that the top is not more than 5 feet above the floor? |  |  |  |  |
| For a business occupancy that is sprinklered, are the sprinklers in good condition and free of corrosion, foreign materials, and paint? |  |  |  |  |
| Do the sprinklers have the required escutcheon plates? |  |  |  |  |
| Is there at least 18 inches of clearance between the sprinkler heads and the top of any storage underneath?  (*Note that perimeter wall and stack shelving may extend up to the ceiling when not located directly under a sprinkler head.*) |  |  |  |  |
| Does the organization meet all other *Life Safety Code* extinguishing requirements? |  |  |  |  |