



STATE OF NEW YORK
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TO: DDSO Directors
Executive Directors of Voluntary Agencies
Operating ICFs

FROM: Joel Akschil
Division of Quality Assurance

RE: New Requirements for Furnishings in ICFs

DATE: August 25, 2003

As you are aware, on September 11, 2003, all ICFs must comply with the 2000 edition of the NFPA Life Safety Code. There is one change that you should be made aware of regarding the standards for furnishings and curtains. For all currently certified ICFs where the furniture will be replaced, any new furnishings must comply with new requirements. These requirements, outlined below, have changed only at Board and Care facilities (currently called Chapter 21 of the 1985 LSC). There is no change to these requirements at Health Care facilities (currently Chapter 12 or 13 of the 1985 LSC).

The change is essentially as follows: All new upholstered furniture in facilities not protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system, must meet the Class I standard when tested in accordance with NFPA 260 (Standard Methods of Tests and Classification System for Cigarette Ignition Resistance of Components of Upholstered Furniture). All new draperies or curtains must be flame resistant as demonstrated by testing in accordance with NFPA 701 (Standard Methods of Fire Tests for Flame Propagation of Textiles and Films). There are exceptions so I urge you to check Chapter 32 or 33 of the 2000 Life Safety Code.

The above means that any furniture or draperies ordered and installed after September 11, 2003, must meet the above requirements. Please note again that these are not new requirements for ICFs which complied with Chapter 12 or 13, Health Care, of the 1985 or 1981 LSC. Typically, furnishing suppliers should be aware of these requirements already, but you may want to ensure that your Business or Purchasing officer is made aware of them as well.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Michael Schongar at 518 473-7032.

cc: Jan Abelseth
Gretchen Finn
DQA Survey Staff
DQA Area and Regional Directors

