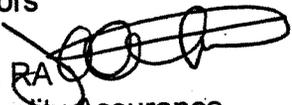




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**TO:** Executive Directors, Voluntary Agencies  
DDSO Directors

**FROM:** Joel Altschul, RA   
Division of Quality Assurance

**RE:** Renovations in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs)

**DATE:** December 22, 2003

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently issued a memorandum clarifying what constitutes "Major" and/or "Minor" renovations, where those terms impact on compliance with appropriate NFPA Life Safety Code (LSC) occupancy chapters. Please note, this only impacts ICFs, not IRAs or other program types.

Essentially, the terms "major" and "minor" apply to the extent of renovations, not the dollar value of those renovations. The terms are defined on the attached memo from CMS. There are also examples given for clarification purposes. The distinction between the terms "major" and "minor" are extremely important as renovations in existing ICFs may require compliance for the entire ICF with the New occupancy chapter rather than the Existing chapter (e.g. New Health Care or New Board and Care, as opposed to Existing Health Care or Existing Board and Care). This could have serious implications, depending on the scope of renovations.

Please review the attached memo and share it with appropriate staff in your organization. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mr. Michael Schongor or myself at 518 473-7032.

att:  
cc: Kathy Broderick  
Peter Pezzolla  
DQA Management  
DQA Survey staff  
Jim Moran