

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT (PE)

Life Safety Management System

The new requirement for life safety drawings was included as accurate drawings are needed in order to validate compliance with multiple Life Safety Code requirements. It should be noted that these drawings do not need to be professionally produced.

Confusion over the wording of the NFPA 10-2010 requirements for inspection of fire extinguishers led to the new requirement at PE.2 (SR.10a). Redundant material was removed from the Interpretive Guidelines (IG) and new material regarding the definitions of the frequency of inspection and testing of fire and life safety systems has been included.

Safety Management System

PE.3 (SR.4) requires that organizations maintain an environment free of hazards and manages staff activities to reduce the risk of occupational related illnesses or injuries. The IG for PE.3 has been updated to include that all organizations, regardless of ownership, including government owned facilities, provide a safe workplace and have processes to prevent occupational illnesses and injuries by meeting at a minimum, OSHA requirements or their equivalent.

Utility Management System

In accordance with CMS's expectations that an organization develop and implement a water management program to reduce the risk of growth and spread of legionella and other opportunistic pathogens in building water systems, a new PE.8 (SR.1a) was created. The IG was updated to include sources for developing a water management program.

Highlights

What's New?

- PE.1: IG now includes guidance and timeframes for annual evaluations of management plans and maintenance of facility equipment.
- PE.2: (SR.2) Added new requirement that the organization maintain current life safety drawings; (SR.6d) Added requirement that specifically requires operating room fire exit drills and fire safety training in accordance with NFPA 99; (SR.10a) Added specific requirement to ensure fire extinguishers are inspected on at least a monthly basis.
- PE.3: Updated guidance regarding a safe work environment.
- PE.4: (SR.4b) Added requirement that organizations address cybersecurity issues.
- PE.8: (SR.1a) Added requirement for a water management program; (SR.2a) Added requirement to address cybersecurity of facility equipment.

What's Deleted?

- PE.7: Removed facility equipment from IG.



Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity has been identified as a major threat to healthcare facilities by HHS and other authorities. Cybersecurity threats do not just threaten traditional IT systems. Building automation systems, facility and medical equipment and access control systems, to name a few, are all subject to cybersecurity risks. PE.4, PE.6, PE.7, and PE.8 now all include requirements or guidance for addressing cybersecurity issues.

Highlights

What's Changed?

- PE.1: IG regarding facility equipment has been added
- PE.2: IG now includes timeframes for inspection and testing of life safety systems.
- PE.7: Updated IG to include cybersecurity of medical equipment.

**Only substantive content updates are explained. Please refer to the change history for detailed information on edits.*