



OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS STATE FIRE MARSHAL
DIVISION OF TECHNICAL SERVICES
INFORMATIONAL REPORT UPDATED: APRIL 2010

NEW DAY CARE CENTERS

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INTRODUCTION

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) conducts fire safety inspections of day care centers at the request of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Licensing rules of DCFS require that day care centers comply with the life safety code adopted by the OSFM before licensing can be completed. The OSFM has developed this document in an effort to assist new or potential day care center owners with understanding the rules, policies and procedures of the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

While the OSFM is willing to assist potential day care center owners with their understanding and application of fire safety requirements, on-site assistance in the form of inspection of proposed buildings is limited by our personnel and time. Therefore, this document was prepared in an effort to assist potential day care center owners with understanding necessary features that should be looked for when choosing a day care center location.

The OSFM has adopted the National Fire Protection Association's *Life Safety Code* as the fire prevention rules for all Illinois occupancies. This report not only reviews the specific requirements of the *Life Safety Code* particular to new day care center occupancies, but also offers explanation of the OSFM's inspection process as well as useful information on practical application of the *Life Safety Code* and instruction on how owners can obtain assistance. It is important to realize that the contents of this report pertain to "new" day care centers. "New" centers are defined as those in buildings that were either constructed or changed occupancy classification after January 1, 2002 when the currently enforced edition of the *Life Safety Code* was adopted in Illinois. (See page #2 of this report for a more detailed explanation of how to distinguish "new" from "existing" day care occupancies).

EXISTING DAY CARE CENTERS

Day care centers that were in existence before January 1, 2002 are subject to compliance with the "existing" day care center rules of the 2000 edition of the *Life Safety Code*. Although similar, the requirements of the "existing" chapter of the *Life Safety Code* do vary from those of the "new" day care center chapter of the Code. It is for this reason that a potential day care center owner should not assume that because the OSFM has found another day care center to be acceptable in the same building as their proposed day care center that their facility will automatically comply with code requirements. Different requirements for "existing centers" may have been applied to the center which is already established, while the newly established center may need to meet more stringent rules.

LOCAL REGULATIONS

It should be remembered that the regulations of the Office of the State Fire Marshal do not supersede the regulations, ordinances or rules established by other authorities such as county building departments or local fire departments. Also, the authority of the OSFM does not include jurisdiction over the actions of local fire departments or fire protection districts. Local authorities may enforce more stringent regulations concerning day care centers. Therefore the OSFM recommends contact with local officials before finalizing day care center plans.

"NEW" HAS TWO MEANINGS UNDER THE *LIFE SAFETY CODE*

As explained above, the requirements of the "new" occupancy chapters of the 2000 *Life Safety Code* are applicable to "new" day care centers as of January 1, 2002. This often causes potential day care center operators to seek a building that was constructed prior to this date for conversion into a day care center in an effort to avoid "New" *Life Safety Code* requirements. However, it should be understood that "new" under the definitions offered in the *Life Safety Code* pertains not only to newly constructed buildings, but also to any building or space that undergoes a change of occupancy classification. Therefore, if an existing building is converted from a different occupancy use into a day care center, even though the building may have been originally constructed prior to January 1, 2002, the day care center is required to comply with the rules for "new" day care centers found in the 2000 *Life Safety Code*.

WHAT IS THE "*LIFE SAFETY CODE*"

The *Life Safety Code* is published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). It is a consensus code document that is developed by a committee of experts under the guidance of the NFPA's code-making rules. The members of the *Life Safety Code* technical subcommittee that consider changes to the *Life Safety Code* represent not only enforcement authorities, but also the insurance industry, architects, engineers, child education associations, and representatives of the owners of regulated occupancies.

Formulated in the early part of this century as a code to ensure safe exiting from buildings, the *Life Safety Code* was originally titled the *Buildings Exit Code*. In 1966, the title was officially changed to the *Code for Safety to Life from Fires in Buildings and Structures*. The *Life Safety Code* is updated on a three-year cycle. The *Life Safety Code* contains separate occupancy chapters to address specific types of building uses. Therefore, the requirements applicable to day care centers are tailored specifically for such occupancies. It is important to note that day care homes as well as educational occupancies are separate classifications with different applicable rules.

As of January 1, 2002 the Office of the State Fire Marshal adopted the 2000 edition of the *Life Safety Code* by reference into the Illinois Administrative Code to serve as the state's rules for fire prevention and safety. (The specific adoption is into Title 41 Ill. Adm. Code Part 100).

WHERE DO I GET THE *LIFE SAFETY CODE*?

The *Life Safety Code*, being a copyrighted document, cannot be reproduced by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The *Life Safety Code* is available for on-site examination at any of the OSFM's three regional offices. It can also usually be found at your local library or fire department. If the local library does not have a copy, ask the reference librarian to see if it can be obtained via inter-library loan. The *Life Safety Code* may be purchased from the NFPA by calling their toll-free order line at 1-800-344-3555

REMEMBER TO REQUEST THE 2000 EDITION OF THE *LIFE SAFETY CODE*

THE OSFM INSPECTION PROCESS

The Office of the State Fire Marshal conducts day care center inspections at the written request of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). All new day care centers receive an OSFM inspection before being allowed to open. Once inspected by the OSFM, day care centers are reinspected by the OSFM at the request of DCFS for relicensing purposes. The OSFM also responds to fire code complaints received in relation to day care center occupancies.

After receiving a DCFS inspection request, the OSFM will assign the inspection to a fire prevention inspector of the Division of Fire Prevention. The local fire department inspector is also notified in order that they may accompany the OSFM inspector if so desired. The inspector will conduct the inspection of the day care center, and then before leaving the facility, will have an "exit interview" with the owner or their representative. This exit interview serves to inform the owner of what violations of the *Life Safety Code* were witnessed by the inspector, and at the same time offer suggestions for compliance.

A copy of the inspection findings will be completed by the inspector and left with the owner or their representative at the time of the inspection. The OSFM encourages that no action be taken relative to an inspection until this official written correspondence is received by the owner. These findings will also be shared with the DCFS licensing office that requested the inspection.

If no violations were noted, OSFM involvement is completed until the next requested reinspection. If violations were noted, the inspector will conduct reinspections to monitor the center's progress in correcting the violations. Centers that do not correct violations will not receive approval from the OSFM to DCFS. Centers that attempt to operate without correcting violations cited by the OSFM or without a DCFS license are subject to prosecution through the Illinois Attorney General's Office.

OSFM INSPECTORS

The Office of the State Fire Marshal realizes the security concerns of day care center operators relative to the admission of outsiders into their facilities. Day care owners and staff should know that OSFM fire prevention inspectors, who will conduct on-site fire safety compliance inspections:

- Drive state vehicles that are plainly marked as representing the Office of the State Fire Marshal
- Carry, and will present if asked, an OSFM identification card containing a photograph of the inspector

The on-site inspection conducted by the Office of the State Fire Marshal is basically a "hands-off" non-destructive process. This means that although the inspector will need to examine all levels and all rooms of the day care center, they will not need to conduct actions such as dismantling equipment, flowing water through sprinkler systems, poking holes in walls, etc.

RIGHT TO APPEAL VIOLATIONS

Owners have the right to appeal the written violation orders issued by the OSFM. This is a legal process to protect owners against errors in the application of the code. Although all owners have the right to appeal an order, it should be understood that appeals based upon a lack of funds to correct safety violations, disbelief in the *Life Safety Code's* requirements, or desire to "buy time" to correct the violations have historically resulted in OSFM orders being upheld.

STAFF-TO-CLIENT RATIOS & FACILITY CLASSIFICATION

Illinois' Administrative Code requires the OSFM to defer to DCFS licensing standard requirements for staff-to-client ratios.

Likewise, examination of the Life Safety Code reveals different day care facility classifications than those defined in DCFS licensing standards. The Office of the State Fire Marshal classifies day care facilities as either day care centers, group day care homes, or day care homes based upon DCFS licensing rule definitions, and not in accordance with the *Life Safety Code's* classifications.

CENTERS IN MIXED OCCUPANCIES

Day care centers are often located within buildings that also contain other occupancy classifications - such as in a business office complex. While this arrangement is allowed by the *Life Safety Code*, special provisions are applicable. Included amongst the special requirements are that the day care center be separated from the other occupancies by one-hour fire resistant construction.

When inspecting day care centers located in buildings that also contain other occupancies, the OSFM inspector will inspect not only the rooms used for day care center purposes, but also the corridors, stairways, and any other components of the means of egress from the center. Any building systems that serve the day care center area are also subject to code compliance. Such systems include heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems, fire alarm systems, automatic sprinkler systems, etc.

Owners of centers that will be located within an apartment building should contact the OSFM for specialized assistance in applying the rules of the *Life Safety Code*.

CENTERS IN MULTI-STORY BUILDINGS OR HIGH-RISES

The *Life Safety Code* does not prohibit the establishment of a day care center above the first floor, or even in a high rise building. The *Life Safety Code* does impose more stringent fire safety requirements for centers located above the ground level, however such centers are allowed if all fire safety requirements are met. These requirements include accessible means of egress for clients incapable of self-preservation (which the *Life Safety Code* describes as those clients unable to exit on their own, including children up to 24 months age). The *Life Safety Code* also imposes more stringent construction classification and automatic sprinkler requirements on day care centers located above the ground level. It should be noted that licensing standards of the Department of Children

and Family Services do restrict the location of day care centers, especially when serving infants and toddlers, and therefore, it should be understood that compliance with an OSFM inspection is not the only criteria for locating a day care center above the ground level of a building.

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTION

There is no requirement in the 2000 *Life Safety Code* for the provision of carbon monoxide detectors in day care centers. Illinois has passed the *Carbon Monoxide Alarm Detector Act* that is separate from the *Life Safety Code*. The OSFM does not interpret this *Act* to require carbon monoxide detectors in day care centers. Day care center owners are encouraged to check with DCFS and local authorities concerning any additional requirements pertaining to the installation of carbon monoxide detection. Note: Day care “homes” are classified differently than day care “centers.” Day care homes are required to install carbon monoxide detectors within 15 ft. of all sleeping areas of the home.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE 2000 LIFE SAFETY CODE FOR NEW DAY CARE CENTERS

16.1.2 Where centers are located in a building containing mixed occupancies, the occupancies shall be separated by 1-hour fire barriers. *The exception to this is centers located in places of worship.*

16.1.6.1 Centers are restricted to certain levels within a building dependent upon construction type and whether or not an automatic sprinkler system is present. (An explanation and table are given on separate pages of this report).

16.1.6.1 The story below the level of exit discharge (a basement) may only be used if the building is protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system.

16.2.2.2.2 Any door in a required means of egress from an area having an occupant load of greater than 100 persons must be equipped with panic hardware. Also, only one locking or latching device shall be permitted on any door.

16.2.2.2.4 & 16.2.2.2.5 Every closet door latch shall be such that children can open the door from inside the closet. Also, every bathroom door lock shall be designed to permit opening of the locked door from the outside in an emergency.

16.2.4 Each floor occupied by clients shall have not less than two remotely located exits. (Windows cannot serve as exits in a day care center occupancy).

16.2.5.2 Dead end corridors shall not exceed 20 feet in length. (50 ft. in length if the building is protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system).

16.2.6.2 Travel distance from a room door to the exit cannot exceed 100 ft. Travel distance within the room to a room door cannot exceed 50 ft. The presence of complete automatic sprinkler systems allows these travel distances to be increased by 50 ft.

16.2.9 Emergency lighting shall be provided for all interior stairs and corridors; and in all flexible and open plan buildings; and in windowless portions of the building. It is not required in classrooms, administrative areas or storage rooms.

16.2.10 Means of egress shall be marked with illuminated exit signs.

16.2.11.1 Every room or space normally subject to client occupancy, other than bathrooms, shall have at least one outside window for emergency rescue or ventilation. Such window shall be openable from the inside without the use of tools and shall provide a clear opening of not less than 20 in. in width, 24 in. in height, and 5.7 sq. ft. in area. The bottom of the opening shall be not more than 44 in. above the floor. Such windows are not required if the building containing the center is protected throughout by an automatic sprinkler system, or if the room has a door leading directly to the outside of the building. (It should be realized that both the minimum dimensions of 20" x 24" inches as well as the requirement for 5.7 ft² must be met. A 20" x 24" window will not result in 5.7 ft² but rather only 3.3 ft². Therefore, the minimum dimensions must be increased to comply).

16.3.1 Any vertical opening (stairways, elevator shafts, laundry chutes, etc.) shall be enclosed. Vertical openings serving three stories or less shall be enclosed by 1-hr. fire rated construction, while those serving more than 3 floors shall require 2-hr. protection.

16.3.2 Hazardous areas, including boiler and furnace rooms and rooms used for storage of combustibles, shall be separated from the center by 1-hour fire resistive construction including a self-closing fire door, or the areas must be protected by automatic fire sprinklers. Laundry rooms that use commercial laundry equipment must be separated from the center by 1-hour fire resistive construction and provided with sprinkler protection, as well as a self-closing fire door.

16.3.2.2 Kitchens containing one residential stove (36 inches or less in width), used for meal warming or limited cooking do not require separation as a hazardous area. However, the presence of commercial type cooking appliances; multiple stoves, or the performance of frying, requires either one-hour fire resistant separation of the kitchen or protection of the center by automatic fire sprinklers. Also, commercial cooking surfaces require the installation of a wet chemical fire suppression system over the cooking surfaces. (Note: Kitchens may still need to have a rated fire door on their openings into corridors - see explanation of corridor protection rules later in this document).

16.3.3.1 Interior finish in stairways, corridors, and lobbies shall be rated Class "A". Interior finish for walls and ceilings shall be rated Class "A" or Class "B". (See the separate explanation of "interior finish" offered in this report).

16.3.4 Day care centers shall be provided with a fire alarm system. The system shall consist of manual means of initiation (pull boxes) and any required smoke detectors. The alarm system must notify occupants of the center when it is activated as well as automatically notify the local fire department. Occupant warning must be accomplished by both audio and visual signals. (The exception to needing a fire alarm system are day care centers housed in only one room).

16.3.4.5 In addition to the fire alarm system required above, smoke detection shall be installed in each story in front of doors to the stairways and in corridors of all floors occupied by the center. Detectors shall also be installed in lounges, recreation areas, and sleeping rooms of the center. (Centers housed in one room only are exempted from installing these required detectors).

16.3.6 Every interior corridor shall be constructed of fire barriers having not less than a 1-hour fire resistance rating including the protection of openings in corridor walls with doors, frames and hardware (including door closing devices) which have a 20-minute fire rating. Such corridor protection is not required if every room subject to client occupancy has a door leading directly to the outside. Also, in buildings protected throughout by an automatic sprinkler system corridor walls need not be fire rated, but only resist the passage of smoke - meaning that although totally unprotected openings are not allowed, items such as hollow-core doors and glass partitions may be located in corridor walls. Doors are still required to be self-closing in these situations. Bathrooms are not subject to having rated doors on their openings into corridors if the walls separating the bathrooms from the other spaces have a 1-hour fire rating.

16.5.1.2 Special protective covers for all electrical receptacles shall be installed in areas occupied by clients.

16.5.2.2 Unvented fuel-fired heaters shall not be permitted.

16.5.2.3 Any heating equipment in spaces occupied by clients shall be provided with partitions, screens, or other means to protect clients from hot surfaces and open flames. (Also see 16.3.2 above for requirements pertaining to protection of hazardous areas).

OPERATING FEATURES

16.7.1 The facility shall have a comprehensive written fire emergency response plan.

16.7.2 Emergency egress and relocation drills shall be executed not less than once per month. The *Life Safety Code* allows drills to be deferred during the colder winter months under certain conditions.

16.7.3.1 Fire prevention inspections shall be conducted monthly by a trained senior member of the staff. A copy of the latest inspection form shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the day care facility.

16.7.4.1 Draperies, curtains, and other similar furnishings and decorations shall be flame resistant.

16.7.5. Adequate adult staff shall be on duty, alert, awake, and in the facility at all times when clients are present.

16.7.4.3 Artwork and teaching materials shall be permitted to be attached directly to walls and shall not exceed 20 percent of the wall area.

Other Life Safety Code Requirements

The minimum height of ceilings is required to be 7 ft. 6 inches with no projection from the ceiling protruding so as to allow less than 6 ft. 8 inches of head room in all areas.

The minimum width of doors is required to be 32 inches, and no single door leaf shall exceed 48 inches in width.

The minimum width of exit access corridors is 36 inches.

The minimum width of stairways is required to be 44 inches, unless the stairway serves a total occupant load of less than 50 occupants, in which case the stairway may be 36 inches in width.

HEIGHT AND CONSTRUCTION TYPE LIMITS

As mentioned in the code requirements section of this document, the *Life Safety Code* limits the type of buildings that can contain day care centers, the floor levels on which centers can be located, and whether or not automatic fire sprinkler systems are mandatory, based upon the construction type of the structure.

A simple overview is:

- All construction types will allow for first floor (grade level) occupancy without an automatic sprinkler system.
- Most construction types will require that if the second floor is used for day care center occupancy, the entire building must be equipped with an automatic sprinkler system. (Fire resistive and 2-hour protected non-combustible construction types do not require sprinklers).
- Locating day care centers above the second floor or in a basement is not permitted unless the building is protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system. Even when sprinklered, the *Life Safety Code* restricts use of these floors to only certain construction classifications.

The "Height and Construction Limits Table" is given below for reference and may be useful to owners, but more appropriately used by your architect, engineer or construction contractor.

LIFE SAFETY CODE TABLE 16.1.6.1

LOCATION AND CONSTRUCTION TYPE LIMITS

LOCATION OF DAY-CARE OCCUPANCY	AUTOMATIC SPRINKLERS?	ALLOWABLE CONSTRUCTION TYPES
1 story below LED (Basement)	Yes	I(443) I(332), II(222),II(111) II(222),II(111), IV(2HH), or V(111)
Level of exit discharge	No	Any type
1 story above LED (The 2nd floor)	Yes	Any type
	No	I(443), I(332), II(222)
2 or 3 stories above LED (The 3rd & 4th floors)	Yes	I(443) I(332), II(222), II(111) II(222), II(111) or V(111)
> 3 stories above LED but Not a high rise	Yes	I(443), I(332), II(222) or II(111)
High-rise	Yes	I(443), I(332), or II(222)

 Type I = Fire Resistive
 Type II = Non Combustible
 Type III = Ordinary
 Type IV = Heavy Timber
 Type V = Wood Frame

IDENTIFYING CONSTRUCTION TYPES

The requirements of the *Life Safety Code* reviewed earlier in this report include references to the type of construction of the building. The construction type classification is directly related to the need for an automatic sprinkler system in the occupancy. Therefore, it is important to have a basic understanding of how construction types are classified.

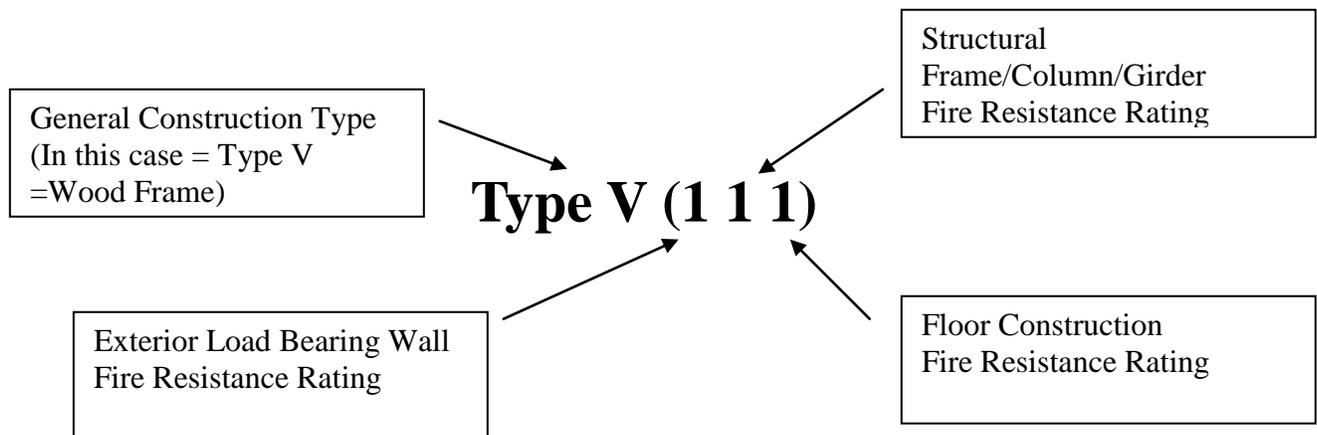
The *Life Safety Code* makes reference to another NFPA standard, NFPA 220 *Standard on Types of Building Construction*, for construction type definitions. It is normally not necessary to purchase this standard as the type of construction can easily be determined. The standard first defines five different general "types" of construction:

Type	Common Name	Description
Type I	Fire Resistive	Usually masonry and concrete construction. No wood or unexposed steel members are used as means of support. Normally not seen in a day care center occupancy unless located within a building designed for other purposes. Fire resistive construction is commonly used in high-rise building construction.
Type II	Non-Combustible	Masonry or other noncombustible exterior support walls with steel (usually bar joists or steel beams and columns) supporting floors and roofs.
Type III	Ordinary	Masonry exterior support walls with wooden floor and roof joists.
Type IV	Heavy Timber	Masonry exterior support walls with large dimension wood timbers used as columns, as well as floor and roof supports. (Not commonly seen in day care center occupancies).
Type V	Wood Frame	Wooden exterior support walls and wooden floor and roof joists.

Subclassifications

Major construction types are further subclassified dependent upon the hourly fire resistance rating of three major components of the building's construction: exterior load-bearing walls; structural frame/columns/girders; and floor construction.

For example:



INTERIOR FINISH & USE OF FIRE RETARDANT TREATMENTS

The *Life Safety Code* requirements reviewed on the preceding pages included reference to interior finish requirements. Interior finish is defined within the *Life Safety Code* as "the exposed surfaces of buildings, including but not limited to, fixed or movable walls and partitions, columns, and ceilings". In plain English, "interior finish" refers to materials that are applied to walls, ceilings, columns, and even movable partitions, over the structural components. While paint and wallpaper of less than 1/28th inch thickness do not usually present interior finish problems, other material such as woven or tufted products, banners and paper products, wooden trim exceeding 10% of the wall and ceiling area in a space, and multiple layers of wallpaper are examples of interior finish. Of special concern is the presence of carpeting or carpet-like materials affixed to walls or ceilings. Non-code complying materials used as interior finish not only add fuel to a fire, but also may cause a fire to spread with unusual speed across rooms, through corridors, and up stairwells.

Interior finish is classified according to two separate components - the flame spread rating and the amount of smoke developed. It is consideration of standardized fire test data of these two components that result in classification of materials as either Class A, B, or C interior finish materials. While most modern interior finish components encountered by OSFM inspectors in day care centers comply with *Life Safety Code* requirements, owners are cautioned to obtain manufacturer's specifications for unusual materials applied to walls or ceilings.

The application of fire retardant coatings to surfaces having higher flame spread ratings than permitted is allowed by the *Life Safety Code*. The application of such products, usually sold in the form of a paint-like material, requires strict adherence to the manufacturer's application specifications, as well as periodic re-application. Such products are often useful when encountering wood paneling in existing facilities which may not comply with *Life Safety Code* interior finish requirements. It should also be realized that the installation of a complete automatic sprinkler system allows materials of lower rated interior finish classifications to be used.

Interior finish classifications do not refer to the fire resistance rating of materials used for the construction of walls or ceilings. These components are considered when classifying a building's "construction type", but not the interior finish rating. Application of fire retardant coatings to the surfaces of a building's structural components, such as floor or roof joists, or exterior load-bearing walls, will not serve to change the basic construction classification of the occupancy.

Interior floor finish includes coverings applied over a normal finished floor or stair treads and risers. The *Life Safety Code* has minimum requirements for fire resistance of floor finishes that are installed in corridors, exit stairs and exit passageways. The installation of a complete automatic sprinkler system allows materials of lower rated interior floor finish classification. Any carpet manufactured for use in the U.S. will have a minimum fire resistance established by the "pill" test, but the interior floor finish requirements found in the *Life Safety Code* are established by a different test and are more stringent than the pill test. Interior floor finish is classified as Class I or Class II.

PLAN REVIEW SERVICES OF THE OSFM

The Division of Technical Services of the Office of the State Fire Marshal will conduct plan review of proposed day care center plans at no charge to the owner, contractor, architect or local fire department. The review is conducted under the direction of the agency's fire protection engineer, and includes examination of submitted plans for compliance with applicable requirements of the *Life Safety Code*, its referenced standards, and any other applicable state fire prevention requirements. OSFM plan review does not ensure compliance with either DCFS licensing standards or local regulations which may differ from the rules and policies of the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Potential day care center owners are encouraged to take advantage of this plan review service as a viable means of identifying possible deficiencies in proposed day care centers. Experience indicates that identifying areas of potential non-compliance at the planning stage is much more cost efficient than correcting the problems after construction has commenced. OSFM plan review is not mandatory for construction, renovation or additions to, a day care center. However, it must be pointed out that the OSFM cannot review plans for remodeling or new construction of day care centers if they do not contain the seal of a registered architect if the scope of the work involved requires that an architect be involved in the design/drawing of the plans in accordance with the rules of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

BENEFITS OF AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEM INSTALLATION

As reviewed in the code requirements section of this document, the installation of an automatic fire sprinkler system is not always mandatory in a new day care center. The provision of automatic sprinklers is dependent upon the construction type of the building as well as the floor level on which the center will be located. However, the installation of automatic sprinklers, even when not required, results in several benefits to a day care center owner including design options and possible fire insurance cost savings.

Design options allowed by the *Life Safety Code* if your day care center is protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system include:

- Allowance for increased travel distance to reach an exit
- Elimination of requirements for rescue and ventilation windows in each room
- Elimination of fire rated room enclosure construction for hazardous areas
- Less stringent interior finish rating requirements
- Elimination of fire rated construction for corridor enclosures
- Less stringent standards for seating furniture

FURNITURE FIRE SAFETY ACT

Illinois' *Furniture Fire Safety Act* is applicable to seating furniture that is purchased for use in day care centers after March 1, 1991. The *Act* requires that all upholstered or "stuffed" seating furniture used in day care centers comply with test standards developed by the State of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, Bureau of Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation. Tags are required to be affixed to such furniture attesting to compliance with the appropriate test standard.

Specifically, in day care centers that are not equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system, all upholstered or stuffed seating furniture must comply with: California Technical Bulletin 133 (1991) *Flammability Test Procedures for Seating Furniture for Use in Public Occupancies*.

Seating furniture in day care centers that are equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system must comply with: California Technical Bulletin 116 (1980) *Requirements, Test Procedures and Apparatus for Testing the Flame Retardance of Upholstered Furniture* and California Technical Bulletin 117 (1980) *Requirements for Test Procedures and Apparatus for Testing the Flame Retardance of Resilient Filling Materials Used in Upholstered Furniture*.

The rules for seating furniture are found in Title 41 Illinois Administrative Code Part 300, copies of which are available from the regional offices of the Office of the State Fire Marshal or on the internet through links available on the OSFM website (www.state.il.us/OSFM).

FIRE EQUIPMENT LICENSING

The *Life Safety Code* does not require day care centers to be supplied with portable fire extinguishers. However, many local jurisdictions may require that such portable fire extinguishers be present in the center. In accordance with Illinois' *Fire Equipment Distributor and Employee Regulation Act of 2000*, all companies and personnel who install and service these portable fire extinguishers must be licensed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Such extinguishers, if installed, are required to be maintained as evidenced by a current "tag" of the licensed service company that is affixed to the extinguisher. The Act also applies to companies and personnel who service fire suppression systems protecting kitchen cooking surfaces. Whether or not a fire equipment company is licensed can be checked by contacting the Springfield regional office of the OSFM's Division of Fire Prevention (contact information is offered below) or on the internet through links available on the OSFM website (www.state.il.us/OSFM).

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about the rules of the Office of the State Fire Marshal applicable to new or proposed day care centers or other day care facilities contact the regional office of the OSFM's Division of Fire Prevention having jurisdiction over the county in which the center will be located. Likewise, if your day care center has been inspected and you have questions concerning the results of that inspection, the fire prevention inspector should be contacted at the regional office numbers and addresses listed below.

Northern Regional Office

James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph Street
Suite 4-600
Chicago, IL 60601
312/814-2693

Central Regional Office

1035 West Stevenson Drive
Springfield, IL 62703
217/785-4714

Southern Regional Office

2309 West Main Street
Marion, IL 62959
618/993-7085

The Division of Fire Prevention can also be contacted by writing to:

SFM.FirePrevention@illinois.gov

QUESTIONS ABOUT PLAN REVIEW SERVICES?

If you have questions about the available plan review services of the Office of the State Fire Marshal applicable to new or proposed day care centers or other day care facilities contact the OSFM's Division of Technical Services in the Chicago Office. The contact information is:

Office of the State Fire Marshal
Division of Technical Services
James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph Street Suite 4-600
Chicago, IL 60601
312/814-8960
SFM.Techservices@illinois.gov