



Office of Head Start

Life Safety Code Information

November 19, 2014

The Life Safety Code targeted questions included in this document are for data collection purposes in center-based head start facilities.

Life Safety Codes (LSCs) are a series of codes developed by the National Fire Prevention Association to assess facility safety across the country. The OHS has included a few of these LSCs in the Environmental Health and Safety Protocol. LSCs are a set of standards widely recognized as benchmarks for facility safety. Ensuring that Head Start children, families, and staff are safe is a top priority for the Office of Head Start (the OHS). The data collected from these questions will provide the OHS with information and photographs of every center-based facility that provides Head Start services. The OHS will use the data to understand how safe its Head Start facilities are throughout the country.

Life Safety Code Targeted Questions (Center Based Only)

Used to collect data to inform the Office of Head Start of the quality of safety in grantee center-based facilities

Center-based Center Life Safety Code Targeted Questions

- ▶ Does the grantee ensure that occupancy loads are calculated and posted for assembly spaces?
- ▶ Does the center have an occupancy load of more than 50 persons?
- ▶ Does the center have an occupancy load of more than 100 persons?
- ▶ Does the building have an automatic fire-sprinkler system?
- ▶ Do children or staff occupy the basement level of the building?
- ▶ Are ceilings a minimum of 7 feet, 6 inches, with no projections protruding so as to provide less than 6 feet, 8 inches?
- ▶ Are all doors used for entry and exit between 32 and 48 inches wide?
- ▶ Are all corridors that lead to an exit a minimum of 36 inches wide?
- ▶ Is every exit door equipped with panic hardware?
- ▶ Do any exit doors have more than one locking or latching device?
- ▶ Does each floor of the center have a minimum of two exits that lead to the outside?
- ▶ Does the center have any dead-end corridors that exceed 20 feet in length?
- ▶ Does the center have any dead-end corridors that exceed 50 feet in length?
- ▶ Are all stairways a minimum of 44 inches wide? *Applies only to buildings with more than 50 occupants*
- ▶ Are all stairways a minimum of 36 inches wide? *Applies only to buildings with fewer than 50 occupants*
- ▶ Is there a fire-alarm system that includes all of the following?

- Manual means of initiation (e.g., pull boxes)
 - Connection to the smoke-detector system
 - Use of both audio and visual signals when activated
 - Automatic alert to fire department
- ▶ Was the fire-alarm system tested within the last 12 months?

Center-based Classroom Life Safety Code Targeted Questions

- ▶ Are all classroom doors within 100 feet of the nearest exit?
- ▶ Are all classroom doors within 50 feet of any point in the classroom?
- ▶ Does the classroom have an exit that leads directly to the outside?
- ▶ Does the classroom have at least one outside window for emergency rescue or ventilation?
- ▶ Are all draperies, curtains, and other similar furnishings and decorations flame resistant?
- ▶ Are exit signs illuminated?