

Life Safety Code

December 2018

PART 100 UPDATE FACT SHEET Day Care Facilities

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) provides fire safety inspections of state-licensed facilities using the OSFM-adopted code. These fire safety inspections are provided at the request of other state agencies which issue licenses for certain occupancies. Licensing decisions remain under the authority of the state regulatory agency that the occupancy is licensed by.

With the OSFM updating the National Fire Protection Association's NFPA 101, Life Safety Code from the 2000 edition to the 2015 edition, what changes will I see for my day care facility?

- **Classification**

Classification of day care facilities under the purview of the Department of Children and Family Services will continue to be based on DCFS requirements.

- **Child-to-Staff Ratios**

Child-to-staff ratios for day care facilities under the purview of the Department of Children and Family Services will continue to be based on DCFS requirements.

- **Means of Egress**

Educational occupancies and day care centers may more easily meet direct exit and window requirements by permitting certain extended travel distances through adjoining rooms.

- **Rescue Windows**

- Day care occupancies may use a permanently fixed set of stairs or ramp to meet the distance limit between the bottom of window and floor required to access rescue windows.
- Currently existing day care centers will remain exempted from rescue window requirements.

- **Mixed Occupancies**

Existing mixed occupancies (such as day cares inside another building) will have some additional options and flexibility in meeting separation requirements between occupancies as prescribed in the currently adopted NFPA 101, Life Safety Code: 2000 Edition.

- **Redefining "Story Level"**

Many occupancies, including day care facilities, will be permitted to use an alternative definition for "story level" to increase flexibility to comply with the code.

