



COALINGA FIRE DEPARTMENT

GREG DUPUIS, FIRE CHIEF

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CITY OF COALINGA FIRE DEPARTMENT		
FIRE PREVENTION STANDARD		
STANDARD TITLE:	402.001 AMBULATORY HEALTH-CARE CENTERS REQUIRING HHS LICENSING	
STANDARD NUMBER: 402.001	EFFECTIVE DATE: 1 December 2021	REVISION DATE: 1 December 2021

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the requirements of “other agencies” for outpatient (ambulatory) surgery centers that receive federal funding and require licensing by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

APPLICATION

This policy applies to anyone who is in the process of starting an outpatient (ambulatory) surgery center and is seeking to receive federal funding and a license by HHS.

OPERATIONAL POLICY

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OPERATIONAL GUIDELINE

Ambulatory surgery centers treat patients receiving outpatient medical care that may render the patient incapable of unassisted, self-preservation in the event of a fire or other emergency. Such patients do not stay in the facility overnight. When an ambulatory health-care (outpatient surgery) center has six (6) or more such patients, it is classified as a Group I2.1 occupancy per the California Code of Regulations, Title 24. The requirements of Title 24 for a Group I2.1 occupancy must meet most, but not all, licensing requirements for an outpatient surgery center licensed by HHS.

Outpatient surgery centers with an occupant load of five (5) or less are classified as a Group B occupancy per Title 24 and have additional requirements in the California Building Code (CBC) and the California Fire Code (CFC) for fire sprinkler and fire alarm systems.

When the facility plans on receiving federal funding from HHS, it is mandated the facility also comply with Section 20.6 or 21.6 of the Life and Safety Code (NFPA 101), regardless of occupant load. Therefore, both the Group B and Group I2.1 facilities seeking federal funding must meet the HHS licensing requirements.



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PROCESS

The following requirements are mandated by the current CBC and the current Life and Safety Code (NFPA 101). The specific requirements for ambulatory surgery centers are determined by the number of patients, the type of surgery conducted, and if the facility is licensed by the federal government. The number of such patients requiring assistance during exiting is generally based on one (1) patient in preparation, one (1) in surgery, and one (1) in recovery. Typically, a facility with two (2) surgery units would have a patient occupant load of six (6). If more than one (1) recovery or preparation bed per surgery unit is proposed, the occupant load is increased accordingly.

Plans for ambulatory health-care (surgery) centers must be submitted to the City of Coalinga Planning and Development Department for plan review. A separate submittal directly to the City of Coalinga Fire Department (CFD or Department) for fire sprinkler and fire alarm systems is also required for facilities to be HHS licensed.

The California State Department of Public Health Services (CDPH) office works under a contract with the federal government to conduct inspections mandated by the HHS. They will only conduct such an inspection after a facility is constructed; however, they will complete a courtesy review of the submittal for compliance with NFPA 101. The applicant must contact the local CDPH, Licensing and Certification office.

INFORMATION

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DEFINITIONS

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CROSS REFERENCES

HHS Form CMS-2786U (07/2018) contains a complete list of federal requirements that must be met for a building to be approved as a federal funded, HHS approved Ambulatory Surgery Center. A copy of HHS form CMS-2786U (07/2018) for a new ambulatory surgery center is available on their website at the following address. <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms-Items/CMS009395>