ALABAMA STATE COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 420-5-22
SUBMISSION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

420-5-22-.01 Applicability
420-5-22-.02 Submission Of Plans And Specifications
420-5-22-.03 Codes And Standards
420-5-22-.04 Code Organizations

420-5-22-.01 Applicability.

The following codes, standards and submittal requirements are applicable to all new construction, addition or alteration projects of hospitals or other health care facilities in Alabama as defined by Section 22-21-20, Code of Ala. 1975. Licensed and unlicensed facilities seeking to occupy space in existing buildings shall also comply with these requirements, even if no construction or alteration is planned. These codes, standards and submittal requirements shall not apply to clinical/ physiological laboratories and freestanding, separately licensed sleep disorder centers.
Author: Victor C. Hunt
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§22-21-20, et. seq.
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420-5-22-.02 Submission Of Plans And Specifications.

(1) New Facilities, Additions, and Alterations. Plans and specifications shall be submitted for review and approval to the Alabama Department of Public Health for any building that is intended to be occupied as a health care facility, and for additions and alterations to health care facilities.

(2) Minor Alterations and Remodeling of Facilities That Are Currently Licensed. Minor alterations and remodeling are building construction projects which do not affect the structural integrity of the building, which do not change functional operation, which do not affect fire safety, and which do not add beds or facilities over those for which the facility is licensed. Such projects are

not required to be submitted for approval. Projects which consist only of patching, restoration, or painting of materials, elements, equipment, or fixtures for maintenance purposes do not require submission.

(3) Plan Review Fees. Each project submitted for review is subject to fees for the plan reviews and inspections, as described in *Alabama Administrative Code* Chapter 420-5-21, "*Payment of Plan Review Fees*."

(4) Preparation of Plans and Specifications. Drawings and specifications shall be prepared under the supervision and control of an architect currently registered in Alabama. Final drawings and specifications shall bear the registration seal of the architect and any professional consultants. Drawings shall be coordinated and the scale of drawings submitted shall be consistent for all disciplines.

(5) Preliminary Plan Submission. One set of plans and outline specifications shall be submitted with the Department's standard transmittal form.

(a) Preliminary plans shall include the following:

1. A functional program clearly explaining the purpose and requirements of the project. The program shall list the Alabama State Board of Health rule that applies to the project, and any other design standard to which the project is designed.

2. Site plan showing size, shape and topography of entire site; location of proposed building and any existing structures; adjacent streets, highways, sidewalks, railroads, etc., all properly designated; size, characteristics, and location of all existing public utilities.

3. Floor plans showing overall dimensions of buildings; location, size and purpose of all rooms; location and size of all doors, windows, and other openings, with swing of doors properly indicated; location of stairs, elevators, dumbwaiters, vertical shafts, and chimneys. Renovations within existing health care facilities shall include floor plan(s) showing the existing use of all rooms and spaces included in the renovations. If phased construction is planned, each phase shall be clearly indicated on the plans.

4. Typical wall section(s).

5. Life safety and egress plans, indicating exit paths, travel distances, fire-rated and smoke walls, smoke compartment areas, fire extinguisher locations, etc.

Minimum scale shall be 1/8”=1’-0” for the entire area of, or the area affected by, the project. In addition to these, smaller scale plans may be submitted, to show a larger area or the complete floor. Life safety plans at the same scale as the project floor plan, with color graphics, are recommended. All required or planned interim safety measures, such as temporary dust or construction barriers and temporary exit arrangements, shall be shown. If phased construction is planned, life safety plans showing the conditions at the start of each phase shall be provided.

6. Listing of applicable codes, and a chart or matrix showing the construction type of the project areas, with the required rating of each structural element, the tested design number or equivalent for each element, and the corresponding typical plan detail(s). Where an existing structure is involved with no alterations, a matrix is not required but the existing building’s construction type shall also be shown.

7. Outline specifications of materials and methods.

8. Estimated construction cost, excluding design fees and medical equipment.

(b) Written approval of preliminary plans and specifications shall be obtained from the Alabama Department of Public Health prior to the submission of final working drawings and specifications.

(6) Final Stage Submission. One set of final plans and specifications shall be submitted with the Department's standard transmittal form.

(a) Final stage drawings and specifications shall include the following:

1. Civil drawings

2. Architectural drawings, including life safety plans, code, design and construction type information, all as noted above.

3. Structural drawings

4. Mechanical drawings to include plumbing, fire protection, heating, and air conditioning

5. Electrical and auxiliary systems drawings

6. Detailed specifications

(b) Written approval of working drawings and specifications shall be obtained from the Alabama Department of Public Health prior to beginning construction.

(7) Fire Sprinkler Plans (if applicable).

(a) Submit 1 set of sprinkler shop drawings, including hydraulic calculations and manufacturer's data for all proposed equipment, with the Department's standard transmittal form. Shop drawings and calculations shall bear the review approval stamp with date and initials of the project's engineer of record for fire protection.

(b) Sprinkler companies that submit plans and install sprinkler systems shall hold a current permit granted by the Alabama State Fire Marshal. The permit number and NICET III designer's name and registration shall be shown on plans submitted, as required by Code of Ala. 1975, Section 34-33-9.

(c) Written approval of sprinkler plans and calculations shall be obtained prior to beginning installation.

(d) Sprinkler companies shall, at the final inspection, submit a copy of inspection/testing/trip test reports, and material and test certificates for aboveground and below-ground piping with a statement certifying design, installation, and freeze protection per the appropriate standard of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

(8) Contract Modifications. Any contract modification which affects the function, design, fire protection, or purpose of a facility shall be submitted to the Alabama Department of Public Health for review. Written approval shall be obtained prior to beginning work set forth in the contract modification.

(9) Inspections. The Alabama Department of Public Health and its authorized representatives shall have access at all times to work for inspection whenever it is in preparation or progress, and the owner shall ascertain that proper facilities are made available for such access and inspection. The architect shall make a final inspection to ensure completion of the project. After such inspection, the architect shall submit a written request for a final inspection by a representative of the Alabama Department of Public Health. The project shall not be approved for its intended use prior to the Department's final inspection and written approval.

Author: Victor C. Hunt
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July 23, 2012; effective August 27, 2012. **Amended:** Filed December 15, 2016; effective January 29, 2017.

420-5-22-.03 Codes And Standards.

The following codes and standards are hereby adopted by the State Board of Health, and are applicable to all health care facility projects submitted to the Department of Public Health for review.

(1) *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals and Outpatient Facilities*, 2014 Edition. This standard is adopted only for the following Alabama Administrative Code chapters:

(a) Chapter 520-5-2, "Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Facilities"

(b) Chapter 420-5-7, "Hospitals"

(c) Chapter 420-5-9, "Freestanding Emergency Departments"

(2) *International Building Code*, 2015 Edition, as indicated below:

(a) Owners and designers of projects are responsible for complying with the requirements of the entire building code.

(b) Technical Reviews performed by the Department of Public Health will generally focus on the requirements of building code chapters 2 through 7, 9, 10, 11, 28 through 31, and 35.

(c) Where references to "*ICC Electrical Code*" occur, substitute the appropriate standards or requirements of the NFPA 70 National Electrical Code, as adopted by the State Board of Health.

(d) Where references to "*International Fire Code*" occur, substitute the appropriate standards or requirements of the NFPA, as adopted by the State Board of Health.

(3) NFPA 101: *Life Safety Code*, 2012 Edition, except Chapter 5.

(4) 2012 NFPA *National Fire Codes*, including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) NFPA 10: *Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers*, 2010 Edition.

(b) NFPA 13: Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, 2010 Edition.

(c) NFPA 13D: *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes*, 2010 Edition.

(d) NFPA 13R: *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Residential Occupancies up to and Including Four Stories in Height*, 2010 Edition.

(e) NFPA 14: *Standard for the Installation of Standpipe, Private Hydrant*, and Hose Systems, 2010 Edition.

(f) NFPA 17A: *Standard for Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems*, 2009 Edition.

(g) NFPA 20: Standard for the Installation of Stationary Pumps for Fire Protection, 2010 Edition.

(h) NFPA 24: *Standard for the Installation of Private Fire Service Mains and Their Appurtenances*, 2010 Edition.

(i) NFPA 25: *Standard for the Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems*, 2011 Edition.

(j) NFPA 55: *Compressed Gases and Cryogenic Fluids Code*, 2010 Edition.

(k) NFPA 70: *National Electrical Code*, 2011 Edition.

(l) NFPA 72: *National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code*, 2010 Edition.

(m) NFPA 90A: *Standard for the Installation of Air-Conditioning and Ventilating Systems*, 2012 Edition.

(n) NFPA 90B: *Standard for the Installation of Warm Air Heating and Air-Conditioning Systems*, 2012 Edition.

(o) NFPA 96: *Standard for Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations*, 2011 Edition.

(p) NFPA 99: *Health Care Facilities Code*, 2012 Edition.

(q) NFPA 110: *Standard for Emergency and Standby Power Systems*, 2010 Edition.

(r) NFPA 220: *Standard on Types of Building Construction*, 2012 Edition.

(s) NFPA 221: *Standard for High Challenge Fire Walls, Fire Walls*, and Fire Barrier Walls, 2012 Edition.

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420-5-22-.04 Code Organizations.

The codes and standards listed above are produced by the following organizations:

(1) *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals and Outpatient Facilities*

Facility Guidelines Institute
1919 McKinney Avenue
Dallas, TX 75201
www.fgiguidelines.org

(2) *International Building Code*

International Code Council
900 Montclair Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35213-1206
Phone 888-422-7233
www.iccsafe.org

(3) *NFPA National Fire Codes*, including the *Life Safety Code*

National Fire Protection Association
1 Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 02269-9101
Phone 800-344-3555
catalog.nfpa.org

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