Sprinkler Advantages

In this issue’s Q&A column, a reader asked the question where exceptions and advantages are found in the *Life Safety Code®* (LSC) if the hospital was fully protected with automatic sprinklers. Here are a few sections of the 2012 edition of the LSC where you are allowed advantages or exceptions if your smoke compartment (or entire building) is protected with automatic sprinklers:

- **7.2.1.6.1** - Delayed egress locks are allowed only if the entire building is protected with sprinklers or smoke detectors
- **7.2.1.6.3** – Elevator lobby locks permitted only if entire building is protected with sprinklers
- **7.3.3.1** - Capacity factors for egress components improve if entire building is sprinklered
- **7.7.2** - No more than 50% of required exits may discharge through the level of exit discharge if area is sprinklered
- **8.7.1.1** - A hazardous area may not have to have 1-hour fire rated walls if protected with sprinklers (Note: This does not supersede section 18/19.3.2.1.)
- **10.2.8.1** - Class C interior finishes are permitted in locations where Class B is permitted, and Class B interior finishes are permitted in locations where Class A is permitted, provided the area is protected with sprinklers. (Note: This does not supersede section 18/19.3.3.2.)
- **10.2.8.2** - Class II interior floor finish is permitted in locations where Class I is permitted providing the area is protected with sprinklers.
- **10.3.3** - Upholstered furniture must meet the requirements in accordance with NFPA 260 and NFPA 261, unless the furniture is located in rooms protected by sprinklers.
- **10.3.4** - Mattresses must meet the requirements in accordance with Part 1632 of the CFR 16, and NFPA 267, unless the mattresses are located in a room that is protected with sprinklers.
- **19.1.6.1** - Lesser levels of Construction Types are permitted if the entire building is protected with automatic sprinklers.
- **19.2.2.5.1** – Specialized protective measures locks permitted only if entire building is protected with sprinklers
- **19.2.6.2.2** - Travel distances between any point in a room and the exit increases by 50 feet if the entire building is protected with automatic sprinklers
- **19.3.2.1** - Hazardous areas are not required to be 1-hour fire rated if the walls are smoke resistant and area is protected with automatic sprinklers
- **19.3.3.3** - No interior floor finish requirements apply in smoke compartment protected with automatic sprinklers
- **19.3.6.1** - Areas open to the corridor are afforded exceptions if the smoke compartment is protected with automatic sprinklers
- **19.3.6.2.4** - Corridor walls are not required to be ½ hour fire rated provided they resist the passage of smoke and the smoke compartment is protected with automatic sprinklers.
- **19.3.6.3.2** - Corridor doors do not have to be 1 ¾ inch thick, solid-bonded wood core or of construction that resists fire for not less than 20 minutes provided they resist the passage of smoke and the smoke compartment is protected with automatic sprinklers.
- **19.3.7.3** - Smoke dampers are not required in fully ducted penetrations of smoke barriers provided both smoke compartments served by the barrier is protected with automatic sprinklers.

The sections beginning with ‘19’ references the LSC requirements for existing conditions. New construction requirements, found in chapter 18, may be different. Before the hospital makes any changes based on the allowances or exceptions above, check with your local and state authorities to see if they have any regulations that would prohibit the change.