



GREATER NEW YORK HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ASSOCIATION

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MEMO 24-08

To: Administrator, DNS, Director of Building, Owners and Operators

**From: Mary Gracey-White RN, Director of Regulatory Compliance and
John Kerney, Life Safety Consultant**

Date: March 20, 2024

Re: Life Safety Citation

GNYHCFA has become aware that in recent surveys facilities are being cited for a mixture of electrical items in circuit breaker panels for the emergency electrical system. We recommend facilities review all your emergency panels to ensure a separation of life safety items and critical power items.

K911 Electrical System- other

NFPA99 Chapter 6 Electrical System requirements that are not addressed by the provided K-Tags, but are deficient. This information, along with the applicable Life Safety Code or NFPA standard citation, should be included on Form CMS25-67.

K915 Electrical Systems – Essential Electric System Categories

- Critical care rooms (Category 1) in which electrical system failure is likely to cause major injury or death of patients, including all rooms where electric life support equipment is required, are served by a Type 1 EES.
- General care rooms (Category 2) in which electrical system failure is likely to cause minor injury to patients (Category 2) are served by Type 1 or Type 2 EES.

From NFPA 99, examples include:

Life Safety Branch. The life safety branch of the emergency system shall supply power for the following lighting, receptables, and equipment:

1. Illumination of means of egress as required in NFPA 101 Life Safety Code
2. Exit signs and exit direction signs required in NFPA 101, Life Safety Code
3. Alarm and alerting systems including the following:
 - a. Fire alarms
 - b. Alarms required for systems used for the piping of nonflammable medical gases as specified in Chapter 4, “Gas and Vacuum Systems”
4. Hospital communication systems, where used for issuing emergency instruction during emergency conditions

5. Task illumination, battery charger for emergency battery-powered lightening unit(s), and selected receptacles at the generator set location
6. Elevator cab lighting, control, communication, and signal systems
7. Automatically operated doors used for building egress. No function other than those listed above in items 1 through 7 shall be connected to the life safety branch.
Exception: The auxiliary functions of fire alarm combination systems complying with NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code, shall be permitted to be connected to the life safety branch

Critical Branch. The critical branch of the emergency system shall supply power for task illumination, fixed equipment, selected receptacles, and selected power circuits serving the following areas and functions related to patient care. It shall be permitted to subdivide the critical branch into two or more branches.

1. Critical care areas that utilize anesthetizing gases, task illumination, selected receptacles and fixed equipment
2. The isolated power systems in special environments
3. Patient care areas – task illumination and selected receptacles in the following:
 - a. Infant nurseries
 - b. Medication preparation areas
 - c. Pharmacy dispensing areas
 - d. Selected acute nursing areas
 - e. Psychiatric bed areas (omit receptacles)
 - f. Ward treatment rooms
 - g. Nurses station (unless adequately lighted by corridor luminaires)
4. Additional specialized patient care task illumination and receptacles, where needed.
5. Nurse call systems
6. Blood, bone, and tissue banks
7. Telephone equipment rooms and closets
8. Task illumination, selected receptacles, and selected power circuits for the following:
 - a. General care beds (at least one duplex receptacle per patient bedroom)
 - b. Angiographic labs
 - c. Cardiac catheterization labs
 - d. Coronary care units
 - e. Hemodialysis rooms or areas
 - f. Emergency room treatment areas (selected)
 - g. Human physiology labs
 - h. Intensive care units
 - i. Post-operative recovery rooms (selected)

Do not hesitate to contact the Association with any questions.