

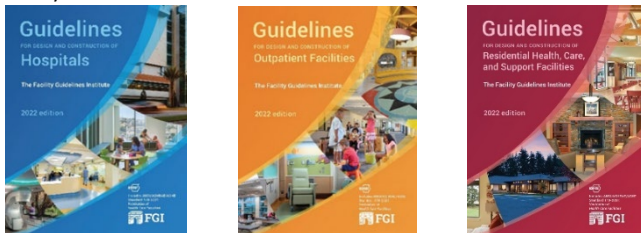
DTR Permit Review: Code Compliance for Health Care Projects

Introduction

NIH-funded health care capital projects go through the DTR Permit Review process to ensure compliance with the Design Requirements Manual (DRM),¹ including all referenced codes and standards listed in DRM 1.2.1. These include the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 Life Safety Code, NFPA 99 Health Care Facilities Code, the International Building Code (IBC), and the Facilities Guidelines Institute (FGI) *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals*, *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Outpatient Facilities*, and *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Residential Health, Care, and Support Facilities*.²

Digital Access to the 2022 FGI Guidelines

The *Guidelines* are the consensus-based minimum construction standards in 43 states for health care facility building performance. The origins of the *Guidelines* date to 1947 when their predecessor, the *General Standards*, established hospital standards for receiving federal funding under the Hill-Burton Act. In 1984, the American Institute of Architects assumed publication of the *Guidelines*, and in 1998, the Facility Guidelines Institute was formed to continue the work. Digital access to all three 2022 *Guidelines for Design and Construction* documents is available at <https://shop.fgiguideines.org> (reference books are available in Bldg. 13, Room 211).



Covers of the 2022 FGI Guidelines

Occupancy Classification/Statement of Conditions

The DTR Permit Review process requires use and occupancy classification to comply with the most recent NFPA 101 Life Safety Code. Construction, renovation, alteration, major equipment installation, or change of use health care projects may be classified under one or more Occupancies within Chapter 6 of NFPA 101 based on the life safety risk to building occupants.

NIH projects in a Health Care Occupancy are designed for medical treatment on an inpatient basis (where patients are incapable of self-preservation) and must comply with the *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals*.

NIH projects in an Ambulatory Health Care Occupancy are designed

to provide services or treatment on an outpatient basis. They must comply with the *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Outpatient Facilities*.

NIH projects in a Business Occupancy are designed for the transaction of business and must comply with the IBC.

The NIH/OD/ORF Office of Hospital Physical Environment (OHPE) maintains the NIH Hospital Environment of Care Statement of Conditions (SOC) documents for the Clinical Center, which include drawings depicting the boundaries between different occupancies. Division of Design and Construction Management (DDCM) Project Officers (POs) have access to the Occupancy classification, fire barriers, fire rated partitions, means of egress, and other information shown in the SOC. POs must make this information available to designers to ensure that the most current information is used.

Use Designation/Space Nomenclature

There may be different use designations within a health care building occupancy. Uses are governed by FGI *Guidelines* sections. The terminology used to describe functional areas, categories, spaces, building systems, and organizational assets may be standardized according to the *2022 Hospital Health Care Facility Nomenclature Conventions*, published by FGI in an annex to the *Guidelines*. Of special value to designers and Permit Reviewers are the Space Nomenclature tables, which easily link the *Guidelines* section that applies to each type of use.

Summary

Health care projects must have a documented occupancy classification and FGI *Guidelines* use designation on the Life Safety Plan in order to comply with DRM required codes and standards. Recent broad access to the 2022 FGI Guidelines as well as the NIH Hospital Statement of Conditions documentation of Occupancy Classification should improve compliance of Construction Documents at DTR Permit Review.

Additional Reading

1. The National Institutes of Health (NIH). Design Requirements Manual, (Issuance Notice 12/12/2016) Rev. 1.5: 03/5/2020 <https://www.orf.od.nih.gov/TechnicalResources/Pages/DesignRequirementsManual2016.aspx>
2. The Facility Guidelines Institute. American Society for Healthcare Engineering <https://fgiguideines.org/guidelines>
3. NIH/OD/ORF Office of Hospital Physical Environment, NIH Hospital Environment of Care Statement of Conditions https://fs.ors.nih.gov/OHPE_USMP_DOCS/DWfFs.

