**Chapter 1 Administration**

1.1 Scope

1.1.1

The scope of this code is to establish minimum criteria as follows in 1.1.2 through 1.1.13.

1.1.2 Fundamentals

Chapter 4 establishes criteria for levels of health care services or systems based on risk to the patients, staff, or visitors in health care facilities.

1.1.3 Gas and Vacuum Systems

1.1.3.1

Chapter 5 covers the performance, maintenance, installation, and testing of the following:

Nonflammable medical gas systems with operating pressures below a gauge pressure of 2068 kPa (300 psi)

Vacuum systems in health care facilities

Waste anesthetic gas disposal (WAGD) systems, also referred to as scavenging

Manufactured assemblies that are intended for connection to the medical gas, vacuum, or WAGD systems (also referred to as scavenging)

1.1.3.2

Requirements for portable compressed gas systems are covered in Chapter 11.

1.1.4 Electrical Systems

1.1.4.1

Chapter 6 covers the performance, maintenance, and testing of electrical systems (both normal and essential) in health care facilities.

1.1.4.2

The following areas are not addressed in this code, but are addressed in other NFPA documents:

Specific requirements for wiring and installation of equipment are covered in NFPA 70, National Electrical Code.

Requirements for illumination and identification of means of egress in health care facilities are covered in NFPA 101, Life Safety Code.

Requirements for installation, testing, and maintenance of fire protection signaling systems are covered in NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code.

Requirements for installation of fire pumps are covered in NFPA 20, Standard for the Installation of Stationary Pumps for Fire Protection, except that the alternate source of power are permitted to be the essential electrical system.

Requirements for installation of stationary engines and gas turbines are covered in NFPA 37, Standard for the Installation and Use of Stationary Combustion Engines and Gas Turbines.

1.1.5 Information Technology and Communications Systems

Chapter 7 covers the performance, maintenance, and testing of information technology and communications systems in health care facilities.

1.1.6 Plumbing

Chapter 8 covers the performance, maintenance, and testing of plumbing systems in health care facilities.

1.1.7 HVAC Systems

Chapter 9 covers the performance, maintenance, and testing of heating, cooling, and ventilating in health care facilities.

1.1.8 Electrical Equipment

Chapter 10 covers the performance, maintenance, and testing of electrical equipment in health care facilities.

1.1.9 Gas Equipment

Chapter 11 covers the performance, maintenance, and testing of gas equipment in health care facilities.

1.1.10\* Emergency Management

Chapter 12 establishes criteria for emergency management in the development of a program for effective disaster preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery in health care facilities.

1.1.11 Security Management

Chapter 13 covers the performance, maintenance, and testing of security equipment and systems in health care facilities.

1.1.12\* Hyperbaric Facilities

Chapter 14 covers the recognition of, and protection against, hazards of an electrical, explosive, or implosive nature, as well as fire hazards associated with hyperbaric chambers and associated facilities that are used, or intended to be used, for medical applications and experimental procedures at gauge pressures from 0 kPa to 690 kPa (0 psi to 100 psi).

1.1.13 Features of Fire Protection

Chapter 15 covers the performance, maintenance, and testing of fire protection equipment in health care facilities.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this code is to provide minimum requirements for the installation, inspection, testing, maintenance, performance, and safe practices for facilities, material, equipment, and appliances, including other hazards associated with the primary hazards.

1.3 Application

1.3.1

This code shall apply to all health care facilities other than home care.

1.3.1.1

This document is intended for use by those persons involved in the design, construction, inspection, and operation of health care facilities and in the design, manufacture, and testing of appliances and equipment used in patient care rooms of health care facilities.

1.3.2

Construction and equipment requirements shall be applied only to new construction and new equipment, except as modified in individual chapters.

1.3.2.1

Only the altered, renovated, or modernized portion of an existing system or individual component shall be required to meet the installation and equipment requirements stated in this code.

1.3.2.2

If the alteration, renovation, or modernization adversely impacts the existing performance requirements of a system or component, additional upgrading shall be required.

1.3.2.3

An existing system that is not in strict compliance with the provisions of this code shall be permitted to be continued in use, unless the authority having jurisdiction has determined that such use constitutes a distinct hazard to life.

1.3.3 Policies

1.3.3.1

The health care organization shall ensure that policies are established and maintained that permit the attending physician to satisfy the emergency needs of any patient that supersede the requirements of this code.

1.3.3.2

Each such special use shall be clearly documented and reviewed to attempt to have future similar needs met within the requirements of this code.

1.3.4 Patient Care Rooms

1.3.4.1

The governing body of the facility or its designee shall establish the following areas in accordance with the type of patient care anticipated and with the following definitions of the classification (see definition of patient care room in Chapter 3):

Critical care rooms

General care rooms

Basic care rooms

Support rooms

1.3.4.2 Anesthesia

It shall be the responsibility of the governing body of the health care organization to designate anesthetizing locations.

1.3.4.3 Wet Procedure Locations

It shall be the responsibility of the governing body of the health care organization to designate wet procedure locations.

1.4 Equivalency

1.4.1

Nothing in this code is intended to prevent the use of systems, methods, or devices of equivalent or superior quality, strength, fire resistance, effectiveness, durability, and safety to those prescribed by this code. Technical documentation shall be submitted to the authority having jurisdiction to demonstrate equivalency. The system, method, or device shall be approved for the intended purpose by the authority having jurisdiction.

1.4.2

Alternative systems, methods, or devices approved as equivalent by the authority having jurisdiction shall be recognized as being in compliance with this code.

1.4.3

The authority having jurisdiction shall be permitted to grant exceptions to this code.

1.5\* Units

Primary units will be trade units, and secondary units will be the conversion.

1.6 Code Adoption Requirements

1.6.1

The effective date of application of any provision of this document is not determined by the National Fire Protection Association. All questions related to applicability shall be directed to the authority having jurisdiction.

1.6.2 Enforcement

This code shall be administered and enforced by the authority having jurisdiction. (See Annex C for a sample wording for enabling legislation.)