

Adoption of the 2022 Edition of the FGI Guidelines for Hospital Licensure

ENGINEERING INTERPRETATION # 001

Background

The Engineering Services Section of the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) must provide guidance on how it will handle conflicts between existing state and local codes enforced in Minnesota and the 2022 edition of the Facility Guidelines Institute (FGI) *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals* (<https://fgiguidelines.org/guidelines/editions/>).

Interpretation

Design and construction of hospitals must meet state and local codes, and the FGI. If the FGI calls out requirements that are more specific or restrictive than existing state and/or local codes, MDH expects hospitals to comply with the more stringent and specific standard. Generally, if the issue is addressed by existing MN enforced codes, MDH would not review it. MDH reserves the right to enforce the FGI if it affects the patient.

Code

Minn. Stat. 144.55 Subd. 3 (d) (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/144.55#stat.144.55.3>)

Hospitals shall be in compliance with all applicable state and local governing laws, regulations, standards, ordinances, and codes for fire safety, building, and zoning requirements. The commissioner shall develop guidance to outline how the commissioner will resolve conflicts between the FGI guidelines and other applicable state and local governing laws, regulations, standards, ordinances, and codes for fire safety, building, and zoning. Guidance must be made publicly available at the time a new edition of the guidelines becomes effective and shall be periodically updated.

Rationale

By adopting the FGI guidelines, MDH now has a tool to ensure that hospital design and layouts are modern and safe. The FGI is both a design document and a physical environment standard. MDH will enforce the physical environment standards, but will not enforce or review design that is part of other codes. These codes could include but are not limited to the building code, electrical code, plumbing code, and fire code.

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