



(State of New Jersey)

DEPARTMENT OF INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES  
P. O. BOX 1237 TRENTON, 08625

January 30, 1964

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TO: ALL LICENSED FACILITIES INCLUDING:

- HOSPITALS
- NURSING HOMES
- INFIRMARIES OF HOMES FOR AGED
- PRIVATE MENTAL HOSPITALS
- PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS FOR MENTALLY RETARDED
- INFIRMARIES OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS
- MATERNITY HOMES

You will be interested to learn of certain recommendations regarding fire safety measures which were recommended by the Hospital Licensing Board on January 10, 1963, and which were subsequently approved by the State Board of Control on January 23, 1963. These regulations have been reviewed and approved by the Deputy Attorney General and will become mandatory for licensed facilities effective February 1, 1964.

The danger of fire in facilities caring for the sick and infirm is of concern to us all and in considering the recommendations made by Mr. Howard R. Hutchinson, State Fire Marshal and Safety Director, both the Licensing Board and the State Board of Control were convinced that requirements drawn up by his office would prove a highly effective safety-to-life measure in our licensed institutions.

The basic thought in the regulations, a copy of which is attached, is to eliminate combustible interior finishes, or as an alternative, to utilize fire retardant paint which has proven to be an effective substitute.

We suggest that you study the attached regulations most carefully and if there are questions regarding them, you should immediately contact the Fire Marshal, who can be addressed in care of this Department.

Sincerely yours,

*F. Spencer Smith*

F. Spencer Smith, Chief  
Bureau of Community Institutions

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Att.

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REGULATIONS REGARDING REMOVAL OF CERTAIN COMBUSTIBLE AREAS IN ALL LICENSED FACILITIES OR THEIR PROTECTION BY APPLICATION OF FIRE RETARDANT PAINT

(Recommended by the Hospital Licensing Board on January 10, 1963, and approved by the State Board of Control on January 23, 1963.)

Institutions considering themselves free of conditions covered in the regulations listed below (by virtue of the fact that there exist no combustible interior finishes as defined in Paragraphs 1 - 4 below) shall place on file with the Office of the State Fire Marshal, not later than July 31, 1964, a letter to that effect signed by the owner or his delegated representative. (A form covering such situations will soon be forwarded to you by the Office of the Fire Marshal.)

Otherwise, licensees shall commence not later than July 30, 1964 to comply with the following regulations which shall be fully completed not later than January 31, 1966.

1. Perforated and non-perforated combustible acoustical ceiling tiles (wood-fibre and sugar canetypes).
  - (a) Remove and replace with incombustible acoustical tiles (mineral fibre tiles); or, as an alternative,
  - (b) coat all existing tiles with approved fire retardant paint.
2. Wooden wainscoating (in hallways, corridors, stairways, lobbies and vestibules only).
  - (a) Remove down to incombustible backing, and if desired by owner, replace with incombustible facing; or, as an alternative,
  - (b) coat existing wood wainscoating with approved fire retardant paint.
3. Combustible partitions (in hallways, corridors, stairways, lobbies and vestibules only).
  - (a) Remove and replace with incombustible partitions; or, as an alternative,
  - (b) coat existing partitions with approved fire retardant paint.
4. Wooden basement and cellar ceilings.
  - (a) Install ceiling of not less than  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch plaster-board, nailed to joists, cemented and taped at joints; or,

- (b) if there exists a wood-lath or metal-lath ceiling under the joists and the plaster on such ceilings is broken or deteriorated, replace with sound plaster facing, or tear down plaster and lath to exposed wooden joisted ceiling, and
- (c) coat all ceiling wood (including joists and cross-bars) with approved fire retardant paint. (In this event, plug or seal all vertical openings prior to painting.) This method may also be utilized as an alternative to Paragraph (a) above.

"Approved" fire retardant paint shall mean a product meeting the minimum requirements set forth in the attached specifications, and which product has been approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, State Department of Institutions and Agencies, P. O. Box 1237, Trenton, New Jersey.

Procedure for Compliance:

1. Prior to commencement of compliance work, institutions shall forward to the Office of the State Fire Marshal a complete proposal listing:
  - (a) Premises affected.
  - (b) Specific areas of institution affected by this regulation and which areas shall be described as to: Type of finish (or construction) currently existing; number of square feet.
  - (c) Method of compliance intended. If fire retardant paint is intended as method of compliance, trade name of paint to be used and approximate number of gallons of this paint expected to be applied.
  - (d) Intended starting and completion dates.
2. No such work shall begin until the Office of the State Fire Marshal shall have forwarded to the institution a preliminary written approval of the methods intended to comply with the requirements listed above.
3. Upon full completion of compliance work in accordance with the proposal submitted by the institution and with the

preliminary approval of the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the institution shall notify the Office of the State Fire Marshal in writing to that effect. In the event that fire retardant paint has been used as a means of compliance, a paint certificate furnished by the supplier of the paint, shall accompany the letter. Paint certificate shall show:

- (a) Trade name of paint supplied to institution.
  - (b) Number of gallons sold to institution.
  - (c) Name of buyer.
  - (d) Date(s) of sale(s).
4. Upon the receipt of full compliance letter (and paint certificate where called for) and upon subsequent inspection by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, a letter of final approval shall be issued to the institution.
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NOTE: Please address any questions or inquiries to:

Mr. Howard R. Hutchinson  
Fire Marshal and Safety Director  
State Department of Institutions and Agencies  
P. O. Box 1237  
Trenton, New Jersey