



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
*Aging and Long-Term Support Administration*  
*PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600*

January 10, 2020

**ALTSA: ALF #2020-001**  
**CR103 ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY RULE FILING**

Dear Assisted Living Facility Administrator and Interested Parties:

This message is to announce the filing of a CR-103 (Permanent Rule) amending, adding, and repealing Chapter 388-78A WAC of the Assisted Living Facility licensing rules specifically related to physical plant requirements. The department filed the CR-103P permanent rules ([WSR 20-02-104](#)) on December 31, 2019.

These rules needed updating to meet the national building code standards for licensed healthcare facilities of this type. With a moratorium on rule development, DSHS has not been able to keep the rules up to date in concert with the changes in building codes, energy efficiency standards, and the structural enhancements associated with this facility type across the nation. The regulatory amendments encompass the technological advances in building design, and the healthcare industry. This has a positive impact on the developers, architects, facility owners, and residents in new and currently licensed facilities to meet licensing requirements and building code requirements with updated safety standards. The building code is updated every three years.

RCS received comments from the public hearing on August 27, 2019. See [Concise Explanatory Statement](#) for more information. The scope of changes in rulemaking was to update, clarify, correct and reorganize the sections. The permanent rule won't appear online for at least two weeks after the full text of the rule is published in the Washington State Register.

If you have any questions, please contact [Jeanette Childress](#), LTC Policy Program Manager, at (360) 725-2591.

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director  
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"