



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**

Home and Community Living Administration  
P.O. Box 45600 • Olympia, Washington 98504

March 12, 2026

**HCLA: NH #2026-010**

**QSSAM-26-02-ALL -Sprinkler system requirement in existing high-rise buildings**

Dear Nursing Home Administrator,

In compliance with the 2012 edition of the Life Safety Code (LSC), Section 19.4.2.1, all Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)-certified facilities classified by LSC as new or existing health care occupancies, located in a high-rise building, must have an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system throughout the entire building by July 5, 2028, as stated in [QSSAM-26-02-ALL](#).

Facilities subject to this LSC provision that have not begun to install a sprinkler system or expanded existing sprinkler coverage, as necessary, are highly encouraged to begin the process. The installation of sprinklers can take a significant amount of time and resources and may involve other building systems such as the fire alarm system.

Please submit any questions regarding the requirements to [EP-LSC@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:EP-LSC@cms.hhs.gov) or [RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Amy Abbott, Director  
Residential Care Services

DSHS: *"Partnering with People"*

Related Reference:

[Federal Register :: Medicare and Medicaid Programs: Fire Safety Requirements for Certain Health Care Facilities](#)