

## **Categorical Waiver Available:**

### **5. Suites**

Sections 18/19.2.5 of the 2000 LSC requires every habitable room to have an exit access door leading directly to an exit access corridor; allows for exit access from a suite to include intervening rooms only under certain circumstances; requires suites of certain size to have two exit access doors remotely located from one another; and limits the size of sleeping room suites to 5,000 ft<sup>2</sup>. Suites are used to create groupings of rooms and spaces that can function more efficiently than individual rooms located off of a corridor. The specific limitations on suite size and design in the 2000 LSC limit their efficiency and the ability for facilities to accommodate suites in their building space, which results in undue burden. In the 2006 LSC, NFPA began to include additional provisions to further accommodate the use of suites, and continue to be reflected in sections 18/19.2.5.7 of the 2012 LSC. Accordingly, we are permitting a waiver to further accommodate the use of suites by allowing: (1) one of the required means of egress from sleeping and non-sleeping suites to be through another suite, provided adequate separation exists between suites; (2) one of the two required exit access doors from sleeping and non-sleeping suites to be into an exit stair, exit passageway, or exit door to the exterior; and (3) an increase in sleeping room suite size up to 10,000 ft<sup>2</sup>. This waiver allowance will be permitted only if the provider/supplier is in compliance with all other applicable 2000 LSC suite provisions, as well as with sections 18/19.2.5.7 of the 2012 LSC.

### **2012 NFPA 101, Section 18/19.2.5.7 Suites.**

#### **19.2.5.7.1 General.**

**19.2.5.7.1.1 Suite Permission.** Suites complying with 19.2.5.7 shall be permitted to be used to meet the corridor access requirements of 19.2.5.6.

**19.2.5.7.1.2\* Suite Separation.** Suites shall be separated from the remainder of the building, and from other suites, by one of the following:

- (1) Walls and doors meeting the requirements of 19.3.6.2 through 19.3.6.5
- (2) Existing approved barriers and doors that limit the transfer of smoke

#### **19.2.5.7.1.3 Suite Hazardous Contents Areas.**

**(A)\*** Intervening rooms shall not be hazardous areas as defined by 19.3.2.

**B)** Hazardous areas within a suite shall be separated from the remainder of the suite in accordance with 19.3.2.1, unless otherwise provided in 19.2.5.7.1.3(C) or 19.2.5.7.1.3(D).

**(C)\*** Hazardous areas within a suite shall not be required to be separated from the remainder of the suite where complying with both of the following: (1) The suite is primarily a hazardous area. (2) The suite is separated from the rest of the health care facility as required for a hazardous area by 19.3.2.1.

**(D)\*** Spaces containing sterile surgical materials limited to a one-day supply in operating suites or similar spaces that are sprinklered in accordance with 19.3.5.7 shall be permitted to be open to the remainder of the suite without separation.

**19.2.5.7.1.4 Suite Subdivision.** The subdivision of suites shall be by means of noncombustible or limited-combustible partitions or partitions constructed with fire-retardant-treated wood enclosed with noncombustible or limited-combustible materials, and such partitions shall not be required to be fire rated.

**19.2.5.7.2 Sleeping Suites.** Sleeping suites shall be in accordance with the following:

**(1)** Sleeping suites for patient care shall comply with the provisions of 19.2.5.7.2.1 through 19.2.5.7.2.4

**(2)** Sleeping suites not for patient care shall comply with the provisions of 19.2.5.7.4.

**19.2.5.7.2.1 Sleeping Suite Arrangement.**

**(A)\*** Occupants of habitable rooms within sleeping suites shall have exit access to a corridor complying with 19.3.6, or to a horizontal exit, directly from the suite.

**(B)** Where two or more exit access doors are required from the suite by 19.2.5.5.1, one of the exit access doors shall be permitted to be directly to an exit stair, exit passageway, or exit door to the exterior.

**(C)** Sleeping suites shall be provided with constant staff supervision within the suite.

**(D)** Sleeping suites shall be arranged in accordance with one of the following:

**(1)\*** Patient sleeping rooms within sleeping suites shall provide one of the following:

(a) The patient sleeping rooms shall be arranged to allow for direct supervision from a normally attended location within the suite, such as is provided by glass walls, and cubicle curtains shall be permitted.

(b) Any patient sleeping rooms without the direct supervision required by 19.2.5.7.2.1(D)(1)(a) shall be provided with smoke detection in accordance with Section 9.6 and 19.3.4.

**(2)** Sleeping suites shall be provided with a total coverage (complete) automatic smoke detection system in accordance with 9.6.2.9 and 19.3.4.

#### **19.2.5.7.2.2 Sleeping Suite Number of Means of Egress.**

**(A)** Sleeping suites of more than 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> (93m<sup>2</sup>) shall have not less than two exit access doors remotely located from each other.

**(B)\*** One means of egress from the suite shall be directly to a corridor complying with 19.3.6.

**(C)\*** For suites requiring two means of egress, one means of egress from the suite shall be permitted to be into another suite, provided that the separation between the suites complies with the corridor requirements of 19.3.6.2 through 19.3.6.5

#### **19.2.5.7.2.3 Sleeping Suite Maximum Size.**

**(A)** Sleeping suites shall not exceed 5000 ft<sup>2</sup> (460 m<sup>2</sup>), unless otherwise provided in 19.2.5.7.2.3(B) or 19.2.5.7.2.3(C)

**(B)** Sleeping suites shall not exceed 7500 ft<sup>2</sup> (700 m<sup>2</sup>) where the smoke compartment is protected throughout by one of the following:

**(1)** Approved electrically supervised sprinkler system in accordance with 19.3.5.7 and total coverage (complete) automatic smoke detection in accordance with 9.6.2.9 and 19.3.4

**(2)** Approved electrically supervised sprinkler system protection complying with 19.3.5.8

**(C)** Sleeping suites greater than 7500 ft<sup>2</sup> (700 m<sup>2</sup>), and not exceeding 10,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (930 m<sup>2</sup>), shall be permitted where all of the following are provided in the suite:

**(1)\*** Direct visual supervision in accordance with 19.2.5.7.2.1(D)(1)(a)

**(2)** Total coverage (complete) automatic smoke detection in accordance with 9.6.2.9 and 19.3.4

**(3)** Approved electrically supervised sprinkler system protection complying with 19.3.5.8

#### **19.2.5.7.2.4 Sleeping Suite Travel Distance.**

**(A)** Travel distance between any point in a sleeping suite and an exit access door from that suite shall not exceed 100 ft (30 m).

**(B)** Travel distance between any point in a sleeping suite and an exit shall not exceed the following:

**(1)** 150 ft (46 m) if the building is not protected throughout by an approved electrically supervised sprinkler system complying with 19.3.5.7

- (2) 200 ft (61 m) if the building is protected throughout by an approved electrically supervised sprinkler system complying with 19.3.5.7

**19.2.5.7.3 Patient Care Non-Sleeping Suites.** Non-sleeping suites shall be in accordance with the following:

- (1) Non-sleeping suites for patient care shall comply with the provisions of 19.2.5.7.3.1 through 19.2.5.7.3.4.
- (2) Non-sleeping suites not for patient care shall comply with the provisions of 19.2.5.7.4

**19.2.5.7.3.1 Patient Care Non-Sleeping Suite Arrangement.**

(A) Occupants of habitable rooms within non-sleeping suites shall have exit access to a corridor complying with 19.3.6, or to a horizontal exit, directly from the suite

(B) Where two or more exit access doors are required from the suite by 19.2.5.5.2, one of the exit access doors shall be permitted to be directly to an exit stair, exit passageway, or exit door to the exterior.

**19.2.5.7.3.2 Patient Care Non-Sleeping Suite Number of Means of Egress.**

(A) Non-sleeping suites of more than 2500 ft<sup>2</sup> (230 m<sup>2</sup>) shall have not less than two exit access doors remotely located from each other.

(B)\* One means of egress from the suite shall be directly to a corridor complying with 19.3.6.

(C)\* For suites requiring two means of egress, one means of egress from the suite shall be permitted to be into another suite, provided that the separation between the suites complies with the corridor requirements of 19.3.6.2 through 19.3.6.5.

**19.2.5.7.3.3 Patient Care Non-Sleeping Suite Maximum Size.**

Non-sleeping suites shall not exceed 10,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (930 m<sup>2</sup>).

#### **19.2.5.7.3.4 Patient Care Non-Sleeping Suite Travel Distance.**

**(A)** Travel distance within a non-sleeping suite to an exit access door from the suite shall not exceed 100 ft (30 m).

**(B)** Travel distance between any point in a non-sleeping suite and an exit shall not exceed the following:

- (1)** 150 ft (46 m) if the building is not protected throughout by an approved electrically supervised sprinkler system complying with 19.3.5.7
- (2)** 200 ft (61 m) if the building is protected throughout by an approved electrically supervised sprinkler system complying with 19.3.5.7

**19.2.5.7.4 Non-Patient-Care Suites.** The egress provisions for non-patient-care suites shall be in accordance with the primary use and occupancy of the space.