Chapter 212-12 WAC  
FIRE MARSHAL STANDARDS

WAC 212-12-001 Statement of authority.  
212-12-005 Definitions.  
212-12-010 Adoption of codes and standards.  
212-12-015 Applicability.  
212-12-020 Additional boarding home requirements.  
212-12-025 Fire reporting.  
212-12-030 Right of appeal for state cited facilities.  
212-12-035 Special requirements.  
212-12-040 Fire emergency plan.  
212-12-044 Fire drills.  
212-12-047 Existing hospitals, etc. Minimum standards for continu- 
212-12-050 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-055 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-060 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-065 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-070 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-075 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-080 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-085 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-090 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-095 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-100 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-105 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-110 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-115 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-120 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-125 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-130 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-135 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-140 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-145 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-150 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-155 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-160 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-165 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-170 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-175 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-180 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-185 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-190 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu- 
212-12-195 Building exits code (1949) adopted for licensed institu-

[Ch. 212-12 WAC—p. 1]
212-12-001  Fire Marshal Standards


212-12-270  Local codes. [Statutory Authority: RCW 74.15.050. 03-06-063, § 212-12-270, filed 3/3/03, effective 4/3/03.] Repealed by 08-06-050, filed 2/28/08, effective 3/30/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.20.130, 18.46.110, 18.51.140, 41.12.485, 48.48.030, 48.48.045, 70.62.290, 74.15.050.

212-12-280  Standards. [Statutory Authority: RCW 74.15.050. 03-06-063, § 212-12-280, filed 3/3/03, effective 4/3/03.] Repealed by 08-06-050, filed 2/28/08, effective 3/30/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.20.130, 18.46.110, 18.51.140, 41.12.485, 48.48.030, 48.48.045, 70.62.290, 74.15.050.

212-12-290  Construction requirements. [Statutory Authority: RCW 74.15.050. 03-06-063, § 212-12-290, filed 3/3/03, effective 4/3/03.] Repealed by 08-06-050, filed 2/28/08, effective 3/30/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.20.130, 18.46.110, 18.51.140, 41.12.485, 48.48.030, 48.48.045, 70.62.290, 74.15.050.

212-12-300  Modernization or renovation. [Statutory Authority: RCW 74.15.050. 03-06-063, § 212-12-300, filed 3/3/03, effective 4/3/03.] Repealed by 08-06-050, filed 2/28/08, effective 3/30/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.20.130, 18.46.110, 18.51.140, 41.12.485, 48.48.030, 48.48.045, 70.62.290, 74.15.050.

212-12-310  Additions. [Statutory Authority: RCW 74.15.050. 03-06-063, § 212-12-310, filed 3/3/03, effective 4/3/03.] Repealed by 08-06-050, filed 2/28/08, effective 3/30/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.20.130, 18.46.110, 18.51.140, 41.12.485, 48.48.030, 48.48.045, 70.62.290, 74.15.050.

212-12-320  Design, operation. [Statutory Authority: RCW 74.15.050. 03-06-063, § 212-12-320, filed 3/3/03, effective 4/3/03.] Repealed by 08-06-050, filed 2/28/08, effective 3/30/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.20.130, 18.46.110, 18.51.140, 41.12.485, 48.48.030, 48.48.045, 70.62.290, 74.15.050.

WAC 212-12-001  Statement of authority. The state director of fire protection is authorized to administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.20.130, 18.46.110, 18.51.140, 41.12.485, 48.48.030, 48.48.045, 70.62.290, 74.15.050. 03-06-063, § 212-12-001, filed 2/28/08, effective 3/30/08. Statutory Authority: Chapter 19.27 RCW, 02-16-023, § 212-12-001, filed 7/29/02, effective 8/29/02. Statutory Authority: Chapters 43.63A and 48.48 RCW, 93-05-032 (Order 93-02), § 212-12-001, filed 2/16/93, effective 3/19/93.]

WAC 212-12-005  Definitions. Unless otherwise provided in this section, definitions in the Washington State Building Code, chapter 19.27 RCW, and 42 CFR Ch. IV § 483.70, National Fire Protection Association, standard 101 "Life Safety Code" 2000 edition, as adopted by CMS (Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services) shall apply to this chapter. The following definitions shall also apply to this chapter:

(1) "State director of fire protection" means the director of fire protection within the Washington state patrol, the state fire marshal or authorized deputy or designee.

(2) "New facility" means any facility that is being occupied for the first time, vacated for more than thirty days and reoccupied, or for which the license has expired, shall be considered a new facility and shall meet the current codes and standards as adopted. Exception for boarding homes which may be vacated for more than thirty days if approved by the director of fire protection and the department of social and health services.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.20.130, 18.46.110, 18.51.140, 41.12.485, 48.48.030, 48.48.045, 70.62.290, 74.15.050. 08-06-050, § 212-12-005, filed 2/28/08, effective 3/30/08. Statutory Authority: Chapter 19.27 RCW, 02-16-023, § 212-12-005, filed 7/29/02, effective 8/29/02. Statutory Authority: Chapters 43.63A and 48.48 RCW, 93-05-032 (Order 93-02), § 212-12-005, filed 2/16/93, effective 3/19/93.]

WAC 212-12-010  Adoption of codes and standards. The following administrative codes and regulations are hereby adopted by reference as if set forth fully herein:

(3) Chapter 51-52 WAC, State Building Code adoption and amendment of the International Mechanical Code.
(4) Chapter 51-54 WAC, State Building Code adoption and amendment of the Uniform Fire Code.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.20.130, 18.46.110, 18.51.140, 41.12.485, 48.48.030, 48.48.045, 70.62.290, 74.15.050. 08-06-050, § 212-12-010, filed 2/28/08, effective 3/30/08. Statutory Authority: Chapter 19.27 RCW. 02-16-03, § 212-12-010, filed 7/29/02, effective 8/29/02; Order FM-77-2, § 212-12-010, filed 11/17/77; Order F-72-1, § 212-12-010, filed 1/24/72; Order F-71-1, § 212-12-010, filed 8/10/71; Order FMR-68-1, § 212-12-010, filed 5/2/68, effective 6/1/68; filed 3/22/60.]

WAC 212-12-015 Applicability. The provisions of this chapter apply to all facilities for which the director of fire protection is responsible for fire protection and enforcement including:

- Adult rehabilitation center.
- Alcoholism hospital.
- Alcoholism intensive inpatient treatment services.
- Alcoholism treatment facility.
- Psychiatric hospital.
- Boarding home.
- Birthing center.
- Child care occupancies.
- Group care facility.
- Group care facilities for severely and multiply handicapped children.
- Hospital.
- Nursing home.
- Transient accommodation.
- Public buildings.
- Enhanced services facilities.
- Examination of premises.
- Standard of safety.
- Schools—Standards for fire prevention and safety—Plan review and construction inspection.
- Removal of fire hazards—Appeal of order—Penalty.
- Reports and investigations of fire—Police powers.
- Statistical information and reports.
- Examination of witnesses.
- Criminal prosecution.
- Record of fires.
- Premises with guard animals—Registration, posting—Acts permitted firefighters—Liability for injury to firefighters.
- Hazardous liquid and gas pipeline accidents—Preparedness of local first responders.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.20.130, 18.46.110, 18.51.140, 41.12.485, 48.48.030, 48.48.045, 70.62.290, 74.15.050. 08-06-050, § 212-12-015, filed 2/28/08, effective 3/30/08. Statutory Authority: Chapter 19.27 RCW. 02-16-03, § 212-12-015, filed 7/29/02, effective 8/29/02; Statutory Authority: Chapters 43.63A and 48.48 RCW. 93-05-032 (Order 93-02), § 212-12-015, filed 2/16/93, effective 3/19/93.]

WAC 212-12-020 Additional boarding home requirements. (1) Boarding home resident evacuation capability levels.

(a) Evacuation capability is the ability of the resident of a boarding home licensed by the department of social and health services under chapter 18.20 RCW to respond to an emergency situation and either evacuate the boarding home or move to a point of safety.

(b) Residents shall be classified in one of the following evacuation levels:

(i) Level I - Persons physically and cognitively capable of walking or traversing a normal pathway to safety, including the ascent and descent of stairs, and capable of self-preservation, without the physical assistance of another person.

(ii) Level II - Persons physically and cognitively capable of traversing a normal path to safety with the use of mobility aids, but unable to ascend or descend stairs without the physical assistance of another person.

(iii) Level III - Persons physically or cognitively unable to walk or traverse a normal path to safety without the physical assistance of another person.

(2) Residents with evacuation capabilities of Level II or Level III must reside on the grade level floor unless the boarding home receives written approval by the director of fire protection to house these residents on other floor levels.

(3) The boarding home must not admit or retain more than two residents with evacuation capabilities of Level II or Level III unless:

(a) The boarding home receives written approval by the director of fire protection to care for more than two residents with evacuation capabilities of Level II or Level III;

(b) The boarding home is divided into at least two smoke barrier compartments on each floor; and

(c) The boarding home has an operational automatic sprinkler system throughout the facility, unless the boarding home was initially licensed prior to July 1, 2007, and is licensed for six or fewer residents.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.20.130, 18.46.110, 18.51.140, 41.12.485, 48.48.030, 48.48.045, 70.62.290, 74.15.050. 08-06-050, § 212-12-020, filed 2/28/08, effective 3/30/08. Statutory Authority: Chapter 19.27 RCW. 02-16-03, § 212-12-020, filed 7/29/02, effective 8/29/02; Statutory Authority: Chapters 43.63A and 48.48 RCW. 93-05-032 (Order 93-02), § 212-12-020, filed 2/16/93, effective 3/19/93.]

WAC 212-12-025 Fire reporting. Any facility licensed by the department of health or the department of social and health services, and inspected by the office of the state fire marshal, shall report within twenty-four hours to the office of the state fire marshal any accidental or unintentional fire, any deliberately set improper fire, any unusual incident that required implementation of the facility disaster plan, including any evacuation of all or part of the resident population to another area within the facility or to another address, and any circumstance which threatened or could have threatened the ability of the facility to ensure continuation of normal services to the residents.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.20.130, 18.46.110, 18.51.140, 41.12.485, 48.48.030, 48.48.045, 70.62.290, 74.15.050. 08-06-050, § 212-12-025, filed 2/28/08, effective 3/30/08. Statutory Authority: Chapter 19.27 RCW. 02-16-03, § 212-12-025, filed 7/29/02, effective 8/29/02; Statutory Authority: Chapters 43.63A and 48.48 RCW. 93-05-032 (Order 93-02), § 212-12-025, filed 2/16/93, effective 3/19/93.]

WAC 212-12-030 Right of appeal for state cited facilities. The following procedure will apply to appeals of orders, decisions or citations made by the state fire marshal's office:

(1) Administrative appeal (step 1) - A facility will have an opportunity to dispute cited deficiencies with a chief deputy state fire marshal. The purpose of this informal process is
to give the facility an opportunity to refute cited deficiencies after an inspection. A written request with an explanation of the specific deficiencies that are being disputed shall be submitted within ten days of receipt of the correction notice. All submittals shall be sent to WSP-Fire Protection Bureau, P.O. Box 42600, Olympia, WA 98504-2600. If a facility is successful in demonstrating that a deficiency should not have been cited, the chief deputy state fire marshal will remove or make the appropriate corrections to the citation. If a facility is unsuccessful in demonstrating that a deficiency should not have been cited, the facility will be notified in writing that the citation will remain unchanged. The facility will then have the option to proceed to step #2 in the administrative appeal process.

(2) Administrative appeal (step 2) - If a facility is not satisfied with the decision made during the administrative appeal (step 1), they may appeal the decision in writing within seven days of receipt of the written decision to the prevention division assistant state fire marshal. If a facility is successful in demonstrating that a deficiency should not have been cited, the assistant state fire marshal will remove or make the appropriate corrections to the citation. If a facility is unsuccessful in demonstrating that a deficiency should not have been cited, the facility will be notified in writing that the citation will remain unchanged. The facility will then have the option to proceed to step #3 in the administrative appeal process.

(3) Administrative appeal (step 3) - If a facility is not satisfied with the decision made during the administrative appeal (step 2), they may appeal the decision in writing within seven days of receipt of the written decision to the director of fire protection. If a facility is successful in demonstrating that a deficiency should not have been cited, the director of fire protection will remove or make the appropriate corrections to the citation. If a facility is unsuccessful in demonstrating that a deficiency should not have been cited, the facility will be notified in writing that the citation will remain unchanged. The facility will then have the option to proceed to step #3 in the administrative appeal process.

(4) This is a final agency action.

WAC 212-12-035 Special requirements. In addition to the fire and life safety standards listed in WAC 212-12-030, the following shall apply:

(1) In nursing homes, fire alarm system annunciators shall be provided where the system serves more than one floor, one fire or smoke division, or one building. They shall be located at each main nurses’ station on each floor, fire or smoke division, and/or building.

(2) In all Group E-3, I, LC Occupancies, annual certification of fire alarm systems shall be performed by the holder of a current low-voltage electrical contractors specialty license issued by the department of labor and industries.

(3) Every story, and basements of Group LC Occupancies shall have not less than two exits.

WAC 212-12-040 Fire emergency plan. All Group I, Group E, and Group R2 Occupancies shall develop and maintain a written fire emergency plan. The plan shall include the following:

(1) Action to take by the person discovering a fire.

(2) Method of sounding an alarm on the premises.

(3) Actions to take for evacuation and assuring accountability of the occupants.

(4) An evacuation floor plan identifying exits.

(5) In Group R, Division 1 Occupancies and Group R, Division 3 Occupancies used as transient accommodations, a copy of the written evacuation plan shall be posted in each guest room.

WAC 212-12-044 Fire drills. In all Group I, Group E, and Group R2 Occupancies licensed by the state, at least twelve planned and unannounced fire drills shall be held every year. Drills shall be conducted quarterly on each shift in Group I and Group R2, Occupancies and monthly in Group E Occupancies to familiarize personnel with signals and emergency action required under varied conditions. A detailed written record of all fire drills shall be maintained and available for inspection at all times. When drills are conducted between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., a coded announcement may be used instead of audible alarms. Fire drills shall include the transmission of a fire alarm signal and simulation of emergency conditions. The fire alarm monitoring company shall be notified prior to the activation of the fire alarm system for drill purposes and again at the conclusion of the transmission and restoration of the fire alarm system to normal mode.

[Ch. 212-12 WAC—p. 4]