

## K-tag Guide

This guide is intended to assist surveyors with matching the 1135 COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Blanket Waivers for Health Care Providers flexibilities, which are being rescinded, with the corresponding Life Safety Code (LSC) and Health Care Facilities Code (HCFC) K-tag(s).

Surveyors will need to use professional judgment, in consultation with State Agency (SA) management and the CMS location, on how to survey and determine deficiencies on a case-by-case basis.

A. COVID-19 emergency declaration waivers being rescinding 60 days from the issuance of the memorandum:

- CMS permitted the adjustment of scheduled inspection, testing, and maintenance frequencies and activities required by the LSC and HCFC. Corresponding K-tags include:
  - K345: Fire Alarm System – Testing and Maintenance
  - K353: Sprinkler System-Maintenance and Testing
    - *Note*: The monthly electric motor-driven and weekly diesel engine-driven fire pump tests were NOT part of the 1135 blanket waivers for the PHE
  - K355: Portable Fire Extinguishers
    - *Note*: The portable fire extinguisher monthly inspections were NOT part of the 1135 blanket waivers for the PHE
  - K531: Elevators
    - *Note*: Elevators with firefighters' emergency operations monthly testing were NOT part of the 1135 blanket waivers for the PHE.
  - K761: Maintenance, Inspection & Testing – Doors
  - K791: Construction, Repair, and Improvement Operations
    - *Note*: Means of egress daily inspections in areas that have undergone construction, repair, alterations, or additions to ensure its ability to be used instantly in case of emergency were NOT part of the 1135 blanket waivers for the PHE.
  - K908: Gas and Vacuum Piped Systems – Inspection and Testing Operations
  - K910: Gas and Vacuum Piped Systems - Modifications
  - K914: Electrical Systems – Maintenance and Testing
  - K918: Electrical Systems – Essential Electric System Maintenance and Testing
    - *Note*: Emergency generator 30 continuous minute monthly testing and associated transfer switch monthly testing were NOT part of the 1135 blanket waivers for the PHE.
  - K921: Electrical Equipment – Testing and Maintenance Requirements
  - K924: Gas Equipment – Testing and Maintenance Requirements
- CMS permitted a waiver of the outside window or outside door requirements to utilize space not normally used for patient care to be utilized for patient care or quarantine. Corresponding K-tags include:
  - K381: Sleeping Room Outside Windows and Doors.
- CMS permitted a documented orientation training program related to the current facility conditions and employee training in lieu of quarterly fire drills. Corresponding K-tags include:
  - K712: Fire Drills
- CMS waived requirements that would not permit temporary walls and barriers between

patients. Corresponding K-tags include:

- K111: Building Rehabilitation
- K163: Interior Nonbearing Wall Construction
- K255: Suite Separation, Hazardous Content, and Subdivision
- K331: Interior Wall and Ceiling Finish
- K362: Corridors – Construction of Walls
- K363: Corridor - Doors
- K364: Corridors – Openings
- K751: Draperies, Curtains, and Loosely Hanging Fabrics

B. COVID-19 survey protocol being rescinding 60 days from the issuance of the memorandum:

- CMS permitted the adjustment to the use and installation of barriers as required by the LSC.

Corresponding K-tags include:

- K131: Multiple Occupancies – Sections of Health Care Facilities
  - *Note*: Rated barriers that have not received close up inspection due to occupied residentroom
- K372: Subdivision of Building Spaces – Smoke Barrier Construction
  - *Note*: Rated barriers that have not received close up inspection due to occupied residentroom

C. For all other tags not listed, follow standard survey processes.