

K-tag Guide

This guide is intended to assist surveyors with matching 1135 blanket waivers and flexibilities with the corresponding 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. Limited per COVID-19 emergency declaration and/or COVID-19 survey protocol.

- Limited due to 1135 blanket waivers:
 - K111: 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.
 - K163: Requirements that would otherwise not permit temporary walls and barriers between patients were waived as part of the 1135 blanket waivers for the PHE.
 - K325: Prescriptive requirements for the placement of alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) dispensers were waived as part of the 1135 blanket waivers for the PHE. Due to the increased fire risk, bulk containers (over five gallons) will still need to be stored in a protected hazardous materials area.
 - K353: Sprinkler system monthly electric motor-driven and weekly diesel engine-driven fire pump tests have been deemed critical and were not part of the 1135 blanket waivers for the PHE. These tests must be evaluated during the recertification survey. The schedules for inspection, testing and maintenance for the rest of the sprinkler system are permitted to be adjusted by the 1135 blanket waiver and do not need to be evaluated during the recertification survey.
 - K355: Portable fire extinguisher monthly inspections were not part of the 1135 blanket waivers for the PHE. These tests must be evaluated during the recertification survey. The schedules for inspection, testing and maintenance of other aspects of portable fire extinguishers are permitted to be adjusted by the 1135 blanket waiver and do not need to be evaluated during the recertification survey.
 - K531: Elevators with firefighters' emergency operations monthly testing has been deemed critical and NOT part of the 1135 blanket waivers for the PHE. Tests must be evaluated during the recertification survey. The schedules for inspection, testing and maintenance for the rest of the elevator system is permitted to be adjusted by the 1135 blanket waiver and do not need to be evaluated during the recertification survey.
 - K712: In lieu of a physical fire drill, a documented orientation training program related to the current fire plan, which considers current facility conditions, is acceptable. The training will instruct employees, including existing, new or temporary employees, on their current duties, life safety procedures and the fire protection devices in their assigned area.
 - K918: Emergency generator 30 continuous minute monthly testing and associated transfer switch monthly testing have been deemed critical and were not part of the 1135 blanket waivers for the PHE. These tests must be evaluated during the recertification survey. The schedules for inspection, testing and maintenance for the rest of the emergency generator system is permitted to be adjusted by the 1135 blanket waiver and do not need to be evaluated during the recertification survey.

- Limited due to COVID-19 survey protocol
 - K131: Rated barriers do not require close up inspection if required to enter occupied resident room.
 - K372: Rated barriers do not require close up inspection if required to enter occupied resident room.

B. For all other tags not listed, follow standard survey process to the greatest extent possible.