



HEALTH CARE ALERT

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Corridor Door Latches

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has recently provided clarification to The Joint Commission (TJC) regarding the allowance of the 5 lb force provision in lieu of the positive latching requirement for corridor doors. As a result, a significant revision to TJC standard LS.02.01.30 EP 13 will become effective on March 11, 2018 for deemed-status hospitals, critical access hospitals, and hospices providing inpatient care.

The new EP language no longer allows use of the 5 lb force provision in lieu of positive latching for corridor doors except for powered doors where the organization can verify that such equipment is not available from the door manufacturer. In such cases, the powered door must be tested to ensure it remains closed when 5 lbs of force is applied at the latch edge of the door. The revised language is available on the Prepublication Standards page of The Joint Commission website.

https://www.jointcommission.org/assets/1/6/HAP_LSC_Prepub_March11_20180124_emb.pdf

This could result in a significant impact for corridor doors in your facility. Please reach out to us if you would like to discuss implications and potential solutions to maintain TJC compliance.