

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Health Facilities and Emergency Medical Services Division Policy Manual		Section: LIFE SAFETY
		Part:
Subject: Plan Review Requirements For Government Owned And Operated Facilities		Page:
Date: March 2011	<input type="checkbox"/> Replacement page(s) of part ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Addition of page(s) to part ____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Section	

SUMMARY

This document outlines the Colorado Department of Health and Environment, Health Facility and Emergency Medical Services Division (Department) policy regarding government owned and operated facility responsibilities related to plan review for new construction and remodeling projects which would normally be subject to plan review under the Department’s regulations

BACKGROUND

By law, the Department is not authorized to spend license fees out of the health facilities general licensure cash fund for oversight of health facilities wholly owned and operated by a governmental unit or agency. While the Department receives a small amount of general fund for such oversight, the amount is insufficient to allow us to do more than limited license-related oversight and complaint response. Accordingly, the Department does not have the financial resources to conduct plan review for these facilities.

At the same time, the purpose of plan review is to provide for a collaborative relationship between the department and facility as major new construction or remodels are undertaken to ensure that upon final acceptance survey, there are not life safety code issues that would cause delay or cost to the facility at the last minute. This has occurred in the past, sometimes at considerable expense and delay, which was the motivation for putting plan review in place in the first place.


POLICY GUIDANCE

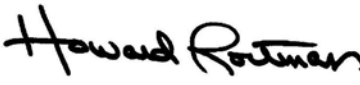
Based upon the above background the Department will not require a health facility wholly owned and operated by a governmental unit or agency to submit fees for plan review and hence will not conduct any review prior to or during construction. If the facility voluntarily desires to go through plan review, the department has established an alternative mechanism to receive what would otherwise be the plan review fee.

While the plan review is wholly voluntarily nothing in this policy is intended to remove the facility’s requirement to notify the Department of the project in a manner as defined by the Department. We expect some facilities may want to go through the actual plan review process and others won’t.

It should be noted that, although the Department will not be doing construction plan review for these facilities, Department staff will continue to do final acceptance surveys for these projects prior to use as a licensed facility. The facility should notify in writing the Plan Review Intake for the Department no later than ten business days prior to the facility being ready for their final acceptance survey.

If a government owned and operated facility has question related to this policy they can contact the Department’s Plan Review Coordinator at (303) 692-2920.

Approved by:  Title: Life Safety Code Mgr. Date: 3/17/2011

Approved by:  Title: Division Director Date: 3/22/2011