January 10, 2020

Re: DAL NH 19-10
   DAL DHDTC 19-11

Dear Chief Executive Officer/Nursing Home Administrator:

In response to recent inquiries, this guidance seeks to delineate the Department’s position on the use of batteries in Type I Essential Electrical Systems (EES).

Article 28 facilities that use general anesthesia or electrical life support equipment, or perform procedures in an operating room setting must have a Type I EES as per the 2012 edition of the National Fire Protection Life Safety Code which in turn references the National Fire Protection Association Standard for Health Care Facilities, NFPA 99-2012. Due to practical constraints, including battery capacity limits, facility size, and operational demands, the Department finds that batteries are generally inappropriate sources of back-up power in hospitals and nursing homes. However, Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASC’s) may use battery-powered EES systems under the following conditions:

- Facility must meet all the requirements of a Type I System and comply with National Electrical Code (NEC) NFPA 70, Article 700 (requirements for testing and maintenance, capacity and rating, selective load pickup, load shedding and peak load shaving).


- All proposals that include the use of battery-powered EES systems must be accompanied by a risk assessment based on NFPA 99, 2012 Risk Assessment Categories that supports the appropriateness of the back-up power provided given services rendered in the operational environment proposed. In general:
  - For facilities with procedure rooms only, the Department would expect batteries to be capable of providing aforementioned power for a minimum duration of four (4) hours.
  - For facilities with operating rooms, the Department would expect batteries must be capable of providing aforementioned power for a minimum duration of eight (8) hours.

Should you have any questions regarding these requirements, please contact Udo Ammon, Director, Bureau of Architecture and Engineering Review, at (518) 402-0904.

Sincerely,

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