

Life Safety Code & Alcohol Hand Sanitizer Basics

Code Enforcement Authorities

Ensure your facility adheres to the standards set by all AHJs (Authorities Having Jurisdiction). There are multiple AHJs responsible for enforcing codes and standards in US healthcare facilities. These include:

- The Joint Commission
- Local Fire Code Officials
- State Fire Code Officials
- Building Officials

Each of these AHJs have overlapping requirements that include approved equipment, materials, installation, and procedures.¹

The Joint Commission & CMS enforce the codes set forth by the National Fire Protection Association's Life Safety Code (LSC). Below are the current codes accepted & enforced by TJC & CMS based off of the 2012 edition of the LSC.



Codes and Standards

A smoke compartment may not exceed 10 gallons of in use alcohol hand sanitizer.

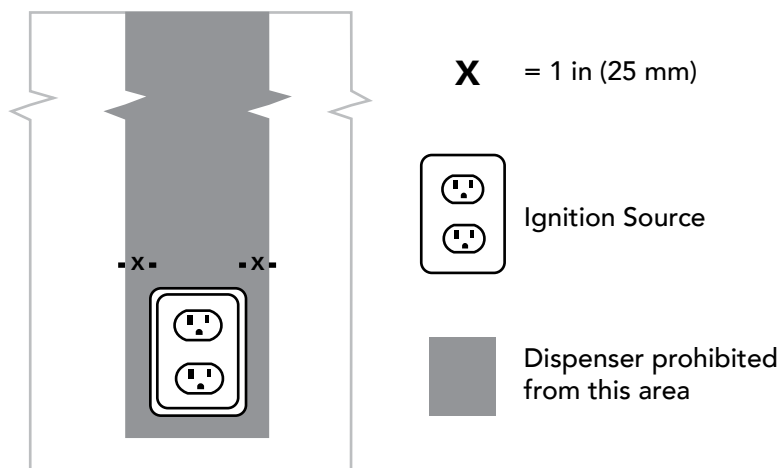
Per the 2012 Life Safety Code, 1 alcohol hand sanitizer unit in a room will not be counted towards the smoke compartment's total aggregate quantity. However, any additional hand sanitizers within the room will be counted towards total aggregate quantity.²

5 gallons of alcohol-based hand sanitizer may be stored in a supply closet within a smoke compartment and is not counted towards the 10-gallon aggregate quantity allowed in use within the smoke compartment.²

Alcohol sanitizer dispensers are not permitted to be less than 4 feet apart from another dispenser. This includes around corners, etc.²

Alcohol hand sanitizer dispensers are not permitted in an egress corridor if the corridor's width is less than 6 feet.²

Alcohol sanitizer dispensers cannot be installed over or below electrical sources (outlets, switches, etc.). Dispensers adjacent to electrical sources must be a minimum of 1 inch away from the electrical source. See image below.²



Life Safety Code Terms

Control Area: A building or portion of a building within which flammable and combustible liquids are allowed to be stored, dispensed, and used or handled in quantities that do not exceed the maximum allowable quantity (MAQ).¹

Fire Compartment: A space within a building that is enclosed by fire barriers on all sides, including the top and bottom.¹

Maximum Allowable Quantity (MAQ): The quantity of flammable and combustible (ignitable) liquid permitted in a control area.¹

Smoke Compartment: A space within a building enclosed by smoke barriers on all sides.¹

References & Resources

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