



## California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	3-23-04	Interpretation #	04-006 Revised 6-1-05
Topic	Flammable Alcohol Based Hand Sanitizers in Corridors		
Code Section(s)	§7903.2.1.6.2 #5 California Fire Code (2001 ed)		
Requested by	Karyn Vaudreuil Carlsbad Fire Department 1635 Faraday Ave Carlsbad, CA 92008		

***Is it acceptable for alcohol based hand sanitizers to be dispensed from permanently mounted dispensers within corridors in medical facilities?***

This issue is currently being addressed as an emergency code change proposal for Title 19. Along with the emergency adoption in Title 19, supporting provisions in the California Building Code will also be amended in the next code cycle. Until these code change proposals are codified, this interpretation may be used by local fire authorities.

Dispensers containing alcohol-based hand sanitizers will be permitted to be placed in the rated exit corridors of health care facilities with specified limitations as follows:

Alcohol-based hand rubs classified as Class I or Class II liquids may be located in corridors of Group I; Group R, Division 2; Group R, Division 6 Occupancies when in accordance with the following, however, nothing contained in these regulations shall be considered as abrogating the provisions of the California Building Code in regards to projections into the clear width of exit corridors or matters of accessibility.

- (1) The minimum corridor width shall be 72 inches.
- (2) The maximum capacity of each dispenser shall be 41 oz.
- (3) The minimum horizontal separation between dispensers shall be 48 inches.

- (4) The dispensers shall not be installed over or directly adjacent to an electrical receptacle, switch, appliance, device or other ignition source. The wall space between the dispenser and the floor shall remain clear and unobstructed.
- (5) Dispensers shall be mounted so that the operable part of the dispenser is a minimum of 42 inches and a maximum of 48 inches above the finished floor.
- (6) Dispensers shall not release their contents except when the dispenser is manually activated.
- (7) Dispensers installed in carpeted corridors shall be permitted only if the smoke compartment or fire area is equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with the California Building Code.
- (8) Not more than an aggregate 10 gal. of alcohol-based hand rub solution shall be in use in a single smoke compartment outside of a storage cabinet.
- (9) Storage of quantities greater than 5 gal. in a single smoke compartment shall meet the requirements of the California Fire Code

If you have any questions regarding this interpretation or the information supporting the proposed change to Title 19, please contact Deputy Daniel Najera, Code Development Unit, at (916) 324-9592 or at [dan.najera@fire.ca.gov](mailto:dan.najera@fire.ca.gov)