



Long-Term Care Regulatory Provider Letter

Number: PL 2018-21 (Replaces PL 10-10 and PL 10-11)
Title: Expedited Life Safety Code Inspection Time Frames
Provider Types: Nursing Facility (NF) and Assisted Living Facility (ALF)
Date Issued: Revised 8/30/2022

1.0 Subject and Purpose

This provider letter (PL) is to clarify the 15-business (NFs), or **calendar**-day (ALFs) timeframe provided by rule for HHSC to conduct an expedited Life Safety Code® and physical plant inspection (ELSC) of a NF or an ALF license applicant. **Updated information is in red font.**

2.0 Policy Details & Provider Responsibilities

A NF or ALF license applicant may submit a written request for an ELSC and fee at any time during the application process. Once a licensing specialist has received a complete application and the fee, the written request for ELSC inspection and fee are sent to Survey Operations to schedule the ELSC inspection. Survey Operations will schedule the ELSC within 15 business days for a NF or **15 calendar** days for an ALF.

HHSC's inspection may occur on any day within the applicable 15-business days for a NF or **15 calendar** days for an ALF timeframe. Thus, the facility must be prepared for an ELSC survey on any given business day (NF) or **calendar** day (ALF) within these timeframes.

The ELSC inspection could occur as early as the next business day (NF) or **calendar** day (ALF) after the application and fee is received. The applicant must be ready for inspection once Survey Operations has the request and fee. The fee covers only one ELSC inspection.

If the facility is not prepared for the inspection when Survey Operations arrives, it must reschedule by submitting a new written request and paying an additional fee. If HHSC is unable to meet the request to provide an ELSC within the required time frame, the applicant may request a refund.

3.0 Background/History

Texas Health and Safety Code §242.039(g) and §247.0211 require the HHSC executive commissioner to adopt rules to implement an ELSC process and authorize charging a fee to recover the cost of the ELSC.

4.0 Resources

None.

5.0 Contact Information

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the Policy and Rules Section by email at LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov or call (512) 438-3161.