

Overview of the Healthcare Environment in relation to the Architectural Review Group (ARG)

June 22, 2012

Gerard Van de Werken

Architect

Texas Department of State Health Services

DSHS

Division of Regulatory Services

Health Care Quality Section

Regulatory Licensing Unit

Architectural Review Group

ARG - 2012

ARG

Staff - 10 A/E's - 2 Admin

Total FTE's

7 - Architects

3 - Engineers

2 - Admin Support

12 - Total FTE's

Currently

5 - Architects

2 - Engineers

2 - Admin Support

9 - Total FTE's

3 Vacant positions

Posting can be found

www.accesshr.hhsc.state.tx.us

ARG

- ARG – Reviews and approves 6 types of facilities - www.dshs.state.tx.us/
 - Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASC)
 - End-Stage Renal Dialysis Centers (ERSD)
 - Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facilities (FEC)
 - Hospitals – General/Special
 - Private Psychiatric Hospitals & Crisis Stabilization Units
 - Special Care Facilities

ARG

- Regulatory Licensing Rules - Chapters
 - Chapter 135 – Ambulatory Surgical Centers
 - Chapter 117 – End Stage Renal Disease Facilities
 - Chapter 131 – Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facilities
 - Chapter 133 - Hospital Licensing State Regulations
 - Chapter 134 – Private Psychiatric Hospitals and Crisis Stabilization Units
 - Chapter 125 – Special Care Facilities

What does it look like in the near future with the current rules?

- State Rules
 - Rule adoption
 - Length of process
 - Current crystal ball
- CMS – Medicare
 - Adoption of NFPA 101 – 2012 edition
- Up coming 83rd legislative session
 - January 8, 2013
 - Urgent care facilities

Types of Plan Submittals – Two Methods

- Application for plan review
 - Plan review application
 - Complete and accurate
 - Correct name of facility
 - All the applicable contact info and correct info
 - Form signed and dated
 - Narrative
 - **Self-Certification form** – request
 - Sealed and signed (Architect , Engineer and someone from the facility)
 - Fees (for hospitals only)
 - **Current PR Time frame**

Types of Plan Submittals – Two Methods

● Fast Track Request

Fast Track (for large hospital projects only)

- A formal request on the facility letter head signed by the CEO, Administrator, etc.
- **Faxed or mailed.** No e-mail will be accepted
- Approval will be determine by size of project, length of construction, and cost.
- Once approved the regular plan review process for submittal is required
 - **Only three packages accepted**
 - Package one – civil, underground utilities, parking, foundation, and sub-structure
 - Package two – Architectural plans
 - Package three - MEP plans

Types of Plan Submittals – Two Methods

- Minor Projects – Request

- Narrative – explaining what is being proposed
- Floor plan(s)
- **Faxed or mailed - No e-mail will be reviewed or accepted**
- Outcomes of request
 - Approved as a minor project – usually one final inspection is required
 - No project - proceed under your own risk
 - Disapproved - requires full plan review application with complete documents, etc.

Type of Inspections

- Inspection requests
 - The architect of record or the hospital owner/operator shall request an inspection by submitting, **at least three weeks** in advance of the requested inspection date.
- Intermediate - 80 %
- Final Inspection - 100 %
 - Needs to be complete
- Expectation at final inspections
 - Required to meet code and rules/regulations
- Inspection fee
 - Hospital only
 - \$500.00 for each inspection

Lack of Disapproval does not Constitute Approval

In the future

- Submittal of Plan Reviews in the future
- All application submittal requirements will still be in effect.
- In the future – Plans may be submitted on **CD's/DVD's**
 - When – to be determined
 - Goal – New year – 2013
 - Will be announced on our Web page.
 - Again - not e-mails.
 - Smoke compartmentalization plans will still be required to be submitted on paper.

How ARG look at codes and rules

- Patient safety
 - Occupant safety
- Patient quality of care
- Infection controls
 - Flooring and how is it sealed
 - Enough sinks
 - Bathroom rooms
- Fire safety

Open Forum