



FGI

Formal Interpretations

Guidelines for Design and Construction of Residential Health, Care, and Support Facilities, 2018 edition

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Further comments from members of the Interpretations Committee have been added to some interpretations. These comments are intended as explanatory information for users of the *Guidelines* and are not to be considered part of the formal interpretation.

Formal interpretations are rendered on the text of the requested edition of the *Guidelines*. However, any interpretation issued shall apply to all editions in which the text is identical, except when deemed inappropriate by the HGRC.

In all cases, it is important to remember that the ultimate interpretation of information contained in the *Guidelines* is the responsibility of the authority having jurisdiction.

The Facility Guidelines Institute administers the procedure for developing formal interpretations. Please visit the FGI website at www.fgiguideines.org/interpretations to read “Rules for Requesting a Formal Interpretation” before submitting a request. Also on the FGI website is an electronic form for requesting a formal interpretation.

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REQUEST

Guidelines edition: **2018 Residential**

Paragraph reference: **4.1-2.2.2.7**

Question: The baseline requirement states, “Each resident shall have access to a bathroom without entering a corridor.” The concern is that access to a bathroom without entering a corridor would not apply in a small- or medium-sized assisted living residence, where bathrooms or toilets may be accessed through a hallway. Thus, this requirement may not be achievable in a small assisted living residence.

Response: The description in your concern is acceptable in accordance with the *Guidelines* as the corridor mentioned in Section 4.1-2.2.2.7 is intended to be a public corridor. Assisted living residences designed as small or medium household models would not have a public corridor; therefore, this requirement would not apply to that facility type.

Further Comments

Assisted living facilities are acknowledged to vary widely in facility style. Appendix section 4.1-1.2.1.2 (1) (Care model characteristics) provides advisory information (not baseline requirement) for small, medium, and large facilities. This section is further supported by appendix table A4.1-a

(Assisted Living Facility Type Characteristics), which summarizes bathing facility types among other characteristics. Centralized bathing facilities are included in all model sizes. The *Guidelines* recognizes the following size categories: small (5 or fewer units), medium (6 to 15 units), and large (16 or more units) in the advisory information. The Health Guidelines Revision Committee has benefited from the participation of representatives from the National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) and assisted living providers throughout the *Guidelines* revision cycles.