

Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Admin Info: 16-27-Training

DATE: July 15, 2016

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Special Compressed Basic Life Safety Course (BLSC) – Online Course

Memorandum Summary

BLSC Online: A special, compressed version of the BLSC Online course will be provided by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) from July 25 through August 19, 2016. This will be the last offering of the BLSC until early 2017. The curriculum of the 2017 course offering will be updated to reflect CMS adoption of the 2012 Life Safety Code (LSC).

Background

The BLSC course is designed to enable surveyors to perform fire safety surveys in health care facilities. Each module builds on the surveyor's knowledge and understanding of the LSC from the previous module.

Course Objectives

The purpose of the BLSC course is to improve the ability of surveyors to evaluate fire safety in terms of the LSC and Federal Regulations. At the conclusion of this course, surveyors will be able to:

- Identify LSC provisions using their rationale, and CMS requirements for health care occupancies under the jurisdiction of Medicare;
- Apply techniques of observations and judgment when applying the LSC; and,
- Use CMS forms and apply procedures for documenting features and deficiencies of fire protection.

Description

CMS will provide a special, compressed BLSC Online course over a four-week period, from July 25 through August 29, 2016. The orientation for this course will be held July 22, 2016. In addition to completing the online lessons, participants will also need to attend a weekly teleconference with instructors. The teleconference will be approximately two hours in length. Teleconference information will be shared with participants after registration.

There will not be any additional offerings of a BLSC course until after the courseware is updated with the 2012 LSC. The anticipated release date for the updated BLSC is February 2017.

Goal:

Provide new life safety surveyors with the opportunity to take the BLSC prior to the adoption of the 2012 LSC on November 1, 2016, and prior to the next LSC offering in February 2017.

Target Audience:

All newly employed surveyors who have completed an approved orientation program and whose major responsibility is to perform fire safety surveys.

Course Prerequisites:

- Orientation to BLSC
- LSC Principals of documentation (web-based training)
- BLSC: The Survey Process
- Fire Inspector I Certification (NFPA/ProBoard endorsed)
- Observed and/or participated in three or more LSC surveys.

The compressed course is four weeks in length and includes 8 modules, and pre- and post-assessments. There are mandatory weekly teleconferences conducted each Friday at 1 pm EST. Teleconference information will be shared with participants after registration. This activity is the equivalent of 60 contact hours.

Contact: For LMS registration, procedures and/or questions, please contact a CMS Training Coordinator:

- Fred Mehl (fred.mehl@cms.hhs.gov) or 410-786-6859
- Ruth Rivera (ruth.rivera@cms.hhs.gov) or 410-786-7518

Effective Date: Immediately. This information should be communicated with all survey and certification staff, their managers and the State/Regional Office training coordinators within 30 days of this memorandum

/s/

David R. Wright

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management