



**Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group**

---

**Admin Info: 17-04-ALL**

**DATE:** January 27, 2017

**TO:** State Survey Agency Directors

**FROM:** Director  
Survey and Certification Group

**SUBJECT:** Basic Life Safety Code (BLSC) 2000 Training- Additional Offering in April 2017

**Memorandum Summary**

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will launch the 2012 Life Safety Code (LSC) edition of the BLSC course in mid-August 2017. Updated prerequisite courses will be available in February 2017.
- In the interim, CMS is offering one last training on the 2000 BLSC for all newly hired LSC surveyors.
- Instructions are offered below for States with immediate training needs for LSC surveyors, along with information on how to obtain copies of the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) *Quick Compare, Life Safety Code 2000 & 2012 for Health Care* application.

**Background**

CMS is updating four Life Safety courses to reflect the NFPA 2012 LSC. CMS worked with State Agency (SA) Directors to identify any needs associated with surveyor training. As a result, the Training Division identified the need to offer States a training pathway that allows new LSC surveyors to survey in advance of the courseware updates. States should not offer their own BLSC surveyor training. Experienced surveyors who have completed the Life Safety Transition Course (LSTC) can continue to survey as needed.

**LSC Surveyor Training Guidance**

CMS will offer all BLSC surveyor training. States should not offer their own training.

Surveyors can access one of the following pathways to be eligible to conduct LSC surveys:

1. **Experienced LSC Surveyors** - Can continue to survey as needed, after completing the LSC transition course available on CMS Surveyor Training Website (STW).

[https://surveytraining.cms.hhs.gov/pubs/ClassInformation.aspx?cid=0CMSLSCTRAN\\_SITON\\_ONLINE](https://surveytraining.cms.hhs.gov/pubs/ClassInformation.aspx?cid=0CMSLSCTRAN_SITON_ONLINE)

2. **New LSC Surveyors** - May take the following training pathway:
  - a. Complete the updated prerequisite courses on CMS STW (available after 2/22/17).
  - b. Attend and complete post-testing and post-training assignments for the 2000 BLSC: April 3 through 7, 2017 in Towson, MD.
  - c. Complete the LSC Transition Course - a web-based, self-paced course also available on CMS ELMS. (The course requires approximately 20 hours for completion.)
  
3. New LSC surveyors hired after 8/1/17 will be trained using the updated prerequisite and BLSC courses. The LSC transition course will not be a requirement for these surveyors.

### **Prerequisite and BLSC Courses (2012 LSC Edition)**

CMS will launch updated prerequisite courses via CMS ELMS in February 2017. The course titles and brief descriptions are outlined below:

- **Orientation to BLSC** – This orientation course teaches new LSC surveyors basic information in the context and framework of the BLSC. Topics identified in this course are covered in detail in the BLSC course.
- **Principles of Documentation (POD) for LSC** – The LSC POD course offers guidance on documenting LS deficiencies.
- **The Survey Process** – This course offers surveyors an overview of what to do before, during, and after an LSC survey.

CMS will then launch an updated version of the BLSC course as instructor-led training in August 2017. Exact dates and location for the course have not been finalized; however, this information will be available in a future release of the CMS Surveyor Training Schedule.

All updated courseware offers instruction to LSC surveyors on the 2012 LSC, as adopted by CMS.

### **NFPA Quick Compare**

CMS purchased 1,068 copies of the NFPA *Quick Compare, Life Safety Code 2000 & 2012 for Health Care*, which is available as a web application. There are 302 copies left. It offers a side-by-side comparison of the key revisions between the 2000 and 2012 LSC editions and a brief description on the differences.

Page 3 – State Survey Agency Directors

CMS offers Quick Compare free of charge to LSC surveyors. To receive a copy, each SA and Regional Office (RO) should send a list of their LSC surveyors, including the following information for each requested application, to our contractor at [NFPA@aha-llc.com](mailto:NFPA@aha-llc.com):

- Name
- CMS Surveyor ID Number
- Address
- Phone Number
- Email Address

This list of surveyors will be forwarded to the NFPA, who will then send out information detailing how to access the application on their computers or other electronic devices.

**Contact:** Questions concerning this application may be addressed to [NFPA@aha-llc.com](mailto:NFPA@aha-llc.com).

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

/s/

David R. Wright

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management  
Regional Office Training Administrators