What are common ILSM deficiencies cited by surveyors?

THE DIRECT ANSWER

The most common ILSM deficiencies surveyors cite aren't exotic — they're basic program failures : no ILSM assessment performed for a project that clearly needed one, daily inspections that never happened or weren't documented, temporary barriers that aren't actually smoketight, staff in affected areas who can't describe the ILSM in effect, and missing drill or training records. The pattern is consistent: the policy exists, but the implementation doesn't.

THE REPEAT OFFENDERS

- No assessment, no ILSM. Construction affecting life safety features with no documented ILSM assessment at all. The most cited and most avoidable.
- Missing daily inspections. ILSM in effect but no daily inspection logs — or logs with gaps. If it wasn't documented, it didn't happen.
- Barriers that don't barrier. Temporary partitions with gaps, unsealed penetrations, or combustible materials — failing the smoketight/noncombustible requirement.
- Staff can't explain it. The interview test: affected-area staff unable to describe the ILSM measures, alternate exits, or what changed about their fire response.
- Drills not increased. Required additional fire drills per shift per quarter missing or undocumented.
- Training gaps. No project-specific training records, or contractors with no documented ILSM orientation.
- Fire watch failures. Alarm or suppression impaired beyond the 4-hour/10-hour thresholds with no fire watch posted and no evacuation — or a fire watch with no documentation of rounds.

WHY THESE KEEP HAPPENING

- Almost every deficiency on this list is a discipline failure, not a knowledge failure . The requirements are well documented; what breaks down is the daily grind — the inspection that gets skipped on a short-staffed weekend, the log that never gets.

FIELD QUESTION

What is the single most common ILSM citation?

Failure to perform and document an ILSM assessment for construction affecting life safety features — the program never started.

From Healthcare Facility Hub - free, like everything on the site. The full article is at the link below.

Caution: codes, editions, and targets vary by facility and authority having jurisdiction (AHJ). Figures marked as common practice are facility targets, not code requirements. Confirm against your AHJ and the current code text before acting.