

Healthcare Facility & Safety Alerts: CMS EP Rules, TJC Environment of Care & ICRA 2.0 Directives — Tuesday, August 25, 2026

THE DIRECT ANSWER

Hospital physical-environment compliance still rests on CMS Emergency Preparedness (42 CFR §482.15), ANSI/ASHRAE 188-2021 water management, ASHE ICRA 2.0 containment, and ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170 ventilation in the edition your AHJ enforces. Since January 1, 2026, Joint Commission hospital surveys place those topics in the Physical Environment chapter—not the retired Environment of Care and Life Safety chapters—with above-CoP items in National Performance Goals. Executive briefing for facility directors, mechanical engineers, and safety officers (August 25, 2026): CMS §482.15, Joint Commission Accreditation 360 Physical Environment, ANSI/ASHRAE 188-2021, ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE 170, 2026 FGI Codes, and ASHE ICRA 2.0.

EXECUTIVE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW

- Acute care and ambulatory sites face steady survey scrutiny in 2026. Teams must prove emergency power transfer, defensible isolation-room pressure, an active water management program, and ICRA barriers before work in patient-care wings.

JOINT COMMISSION PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- Since January 1, 2026, hospital manuals replace Environment of Care and Life Safety with one Physical Environment chapter numbered around CMS physical-environment CoPs. Above-CoP requirements moved to National Performance Goals. Surveyors use the Survey Process Guide.

FIELD QUESTION

Did The Joint Commission replace Environment of Care in 2026?

Yes. For hospitals and critical access hospitals, Accreditation 360 replaced the Environment of Care and Life Safety chapters with a Physical Environment chapter effective January 1, 2026, reorganized around CMS Conditions of Participation. Some former EC requirements now sit in the National Performance Goals chapter. Operational duties—rounds, testing, documentation—largely continue under new standard numbers.

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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.

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