How long do ILSM stay in effect after construction ends?

THE DIRECT ANSWER

ILSM stay in effect until the normal life safety protections are fully restored and verified — not until the contractor packs up. "Construction ends" and "protections restored" are two different milestones, and ILSM covers the gap between them. Terminating ILSM early, before fire systems are back online and barriers are intact, is one of the most common ILSM deficiencies surveyors cite.

THE CLOSEOUT SEQUENCE

- Physical work completes — construction finishes in the affected area.
- Protections are restored — fire alarm, detection, and suppression systems returned to full operation; temporary equivalent systems removed; smoke/fire barriers repaired and verified; penetrations firestopped.
- Restoration is verified — systems tested, barrier integrity confirmed, egress paths confirmed clear and correctly signed.
- ILSM is formally terminated — the termination is documented: date, what was restored, who verified it, and sign-off by the responsible party.

WHAT ABOUT DEFICIENCIES (NOT CONSTRUCTION)?

- When ILSM covers a Life Safety Code deficiency rather than a project, it stays in effect until the deficiency is corrected — documented through the Plan for Improvement process.

FIELD QUESTION

Can ILSM end when the contractor demobilizes?

No — ILSM ends when life safety protections are restored and verified, and the termination is documented with sign-off. Demobilization is a construction milestone, not a life safety one.

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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.