

ICRA vs ILSM: What's the Difference — and When Do You Need Both?

THE DIRECT ANSWER

ICRA controls infection risk (dust, water, air) with containment precautions. ILSM controls life-safety risk with interim measures while a fire/egress/alarm/suppression feature is impaired. Same project, both processes, separate close-outs.

ICRA

- Trigger: construction near patients.
- Controls: barriers, negative air, HEPA, cleaning, water controls.
- Owner: infection prevention.

ILSM

- Trigger: life safety feature impaired or out of service.
- Controls: fire watch, temporary detection, egress management, inspections.
- Owner: life safety / facilities, under the fire safety plan.

FIELD QUESTION

Does finishing one close the other?

No. Cleaning and barrier removal close ICRA; verified restoration of the impaired feature closes ILSM.

Two risks, two processes - the seam between them is where findings live.

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.

healthcarefacilityhub.org/icra-vs-ilsm-difference/

Free field sheet from Healthcare Facility Hub. The live page is the current version - this sheet was generated October 2026. Scan the code to open the full article.

