What ILSM measures does The Joint Commission expect during construction?

THE DIRECT ANSWER

The Joint Commission expects hospitals to implement Interim Life Safety Measures (ILSM) under standard LS.01.02.01 whenever construction — or a Life Safety Code deficiency — degrades the building's normal fire and life safety protections. The expected measures, spelled out in the standard's elements of performance, are: posted alternate-exit signage, daily egress-route inspections, temporary equivalent fire systems while a system is impaired, additional firefighting equipment, smoketight noncombustible temporary barriers, increased surveillance, enforced storage and debris-removal practices, training on firefighting equipment, an additional fire drill per shift per quarter, monthly testing of temporary systems, and staff training.

THE MEASURES, MAPPED TO WHAT SURVEYORS CHECK

- Alternate exit signage — everyone affected must know where the alternate exits are.
- Daily egress inspections — routes of egress in affected areas inspected every day, problems resolved immediately.
- Temporary equivalent systems — when a fire alarm, detection, or suppression system is impaired, a temporary but equivalent system goes in, and it's inspected and tested monthly (or once per project if the project runs under a month).
- Additional firefighting equipment — provided where the assessment calls for it, with staff trained in its use.
- Smoketight, noncombustible partitions — temporary construction barriers that won't contribute to fire development or spread.
- Increased hazard surveillance — documented inspections of buildings, grounds, and equipment, with attention to construction areas, storage, excavations, and field offices.
- Storage, housekeeping, debris removal — practices that keep flammable and combustible load at the lowest feasible level.

THE TWO CLOCKS THAT FORCE ACTION

- Mirroring the 2012 Life Safety Code: a fire alarm system out more than 4 cumulative hours in 24 triggers an ILSM assessment — evacuate the zone or post a fire watch.

FIELD QUESTION

Which Joint Commission standard covers ILSM?

LS.01.02.01 — Interim Life Safety Measures, with elements of performance covering signage, inspections, temporary systems, equipment, barriers, surveillance, housekeeping, training, drills, and system testing.

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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.