FGI Guidelines 2022 vs. 2026 Codes: Healthcare Compliance Field Sheet

Updated November 25, 2026 · AHJ Adoption, Codes vs. Handbooks Split & 42 CFR 482.41

Direct Answer — FGI documents become enforceable only when adopted by a state licensing authority, building official, CMS survey path, or Joint Commission surveyor. Beginning with the 2026 cycle, FGI splits minimum enforceable requirements (`FGI Codes for Planning and Design`) from advisory commentary (`FGI Handbooks`), while many active projects still run on 2018 or 2022 editions.

1. FGI 2022 Guidelines vs. 2026 Codes Architecture Matrix

Comparison Axis	2022 FGI Guidelines	2026 FGI Cycle (Codes vs. Handbooks)	Facility / Survey Action
Document Structure	Combined minimum standards + appendix advisory text	Separated into enforceable *FGI Codes* + *FGI Handbooks*	Verify which volume AHJ/state adopted
Facility Scope Volumes	Hospitals, Outpatient Facilities, Residential Health	Hospital Code, Outpatient Code, Residential Code + Handbooks	Match occupancy license to exact volume
CMS / TJC Enforcement	Enforced only if state/AHJ adopted that edition	Same AHJ adoption rule; confirm permit vs. survey edition	Document controlling edition in project charter
Safety Risk Assessment	Mandatory SRA (ICRA, patient handling, behavioral, falls)	Retained as core design gate in Codes + Handbook guidance	Sign off multidisciplinary SRA pre-schematic
Official Access	FGI digital / print license	Official portal at `fgicodes.org`	Ban unofficial PDFs from submittals

2. Cross-Code Coordination (NFPA 101, ASHRAE 170 & ICRA)

- **Life Safety (NFPA 101):** CMS enforces the 2012 edition of NFPA 101 under `42 CFR 482.41(b)` alongside state-adopted FGI design requirements.
- **Ventilation (ASHRAE 170):** Room pressure relationships, minimum ACH, and filtration tables coordinate directly with FGI clinical space programs.

3. Pre-Design & Survey Readiness Checklist

Role / Phase	Required Verification Item	Evidence Artifact	Owner
AHJ Scoping	Confirm state health dept & local building code FGI edition year	Written AHJ code-adoption memo	Compliance / Architect
SRA & ICRA	Complete Safety Risk Assessment & ICRA Class before demolition	Signed SRA + ICRA permit packet	Infection Prevention / Design
Room Clearances	Verify patient room, ICU, OR, and sterile processing clearances	Dimensioned architectural plan check	Clinical Engineering / MEP
Acoustic & Lighting	Audit speech privacy, STC walls, and clinical lighting minimums	Commissioning & acoustic test log	Facilities / Commissioning

4. Primary Official Sources & Companion HFH Guides

- Facility Guidelines Institute Official Portal: https://fgicodes.org/
- CMS Physical Environment CoP (`42 CFR 482.41`): https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-42/chapter-IV/subchapter-G/part-482/subpart-C/section-482.41
- ASHRAE 170 Ventilation Matrix: https://healthcarefacilityhub.org/healthcare-hvac-design-ashrae-170-ventilation-pressure-air-changes/
- ICRA vs. ILSM Construction Matrix: https://healthcarefacilityhub.org/healthcare-construction-renovation-icra-ilsm-infection-control/
- Markdown Twin: https://healthcarefacilityhub.org/fgi-guidelines-healthcare-facility-design-2026-edition-compliance.md