

Life Safety Code Scope and Severity

Severity Levels

Level I: A deficiency that has the potential for causing no more than a minor negative impact on the resident(s).

Level II: Non-compliance with the requirements of the LSC that results in no actual harm to the residents of the facility but with the potential for more than minimal harm.

Level III: Non-compliance with the requirements of the LSC that results in actual harm.

Level IV: Non-compliance with the requirements of the LSC that results in immediate jeopardy, a situation in which immediate corrective action is necessary because the provider’s noncompliance with one or more LSC requirements has caused, or is likely to cause, serious injury, serious harm, impairment or death to a resident receiving care in a facility. Facility practice establishes a reasonable degree of predictability of similar actions, situations, practices or incidents occurring in the future.

Scope Levels

Isolated: When one or a very limited number of residents are affected and/or the situation has occurred only occasionally or in a limited number of locations.

Pattern: When more than a very limited number of residents are affected and/or the situation has occurred in several locations. The effect of the deficient practices is not found to be pervasive throughout the facility.

Widespread: When the problem causing the deficiencies are pervasive in the facility and/or represent systemic failure that affected or has the potential to affect a large portion or all of the residents.

Level IV Immediate Jeopardy to Resident Health or Safety	J	K	L
Level III Actual Harm that is not Immediate Jeopardy	G	H	I
Level II No Actual Harm with Potential for More than Minimal Harm that is not Immediate Jeopardy	D	E	F
Level I No Actual Harm with Potential for Minimal Harm	A	B	C

Isolated

Pattern

Widespread

K-Tags with a score of A, B, or C mean the fire safety feature was found to be in substantial compliance and the facility is eligible for continued certification as a participant in the Medicare/Medicaid benefit program.

A	B	C

K-Tags with a score of D, E, F or higher mean the fire safety feature was found to be out of compliance and must be corrected before a determination of substantial compliance can be made and continued certification recommended to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

J	K	L
G	H	I
D	E	F

All K-Tags which are scored B through L require the facility to submit a written Plan of Correction (POC).

J	K	L
G	H	I
D	E	F
	B	C