Overview of the Healthcare Environment in relation to the Architectural Review Group (ARG)

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ARG

Staff - 10 A/E’s - 2 Admin

Total FTE’s Currently
7 - Architects 5 - Architects
3 - Engineers 2 - Engineers
2 - Admin Support 2 - Admin Support
12 - Total FTE’s 9 - Total FTE’s

3 Vacant positions
Posting can be found
www.accesshr.hhsc.state.tx.us
ARG

ARG – Reviews and approves 6 types of facilities - [www.dshs.state.tx.us](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/)

- Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASC)
- End-Stage Renal Dialysis Centers (ERSD)
- Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facilities (FEC)
- Hospitals – General/Special
- Private Psychiatric Hospitals & Crisis Stabilization Units
- Special Care Facilities
Regulatory Licensing Rules - Chapters

- Chapter 135 – Ambulatory Surgical Centers
- Chapter 117 – End Stage Renal Disease Facilities
- Chapter 131 – Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facilities
- Chapter 133 - Hospital Licensing State Regulations
- Chapter 134 – Private Psychiatric Hospitals and Crisis Stabilization Units
- Chapter 125 – Special Care Facilities
What does it look like in the near future with the current rules?

- State Rules
  - Rule adoption
  - Length of process
  - Current crystal ball

- CMS – Medicare
  - Adoption of NFPA 101 – 2012 edition

- Upcoming 83rd legislative session
  - January 8, 2013
  - Urgent care facilities
Types of Plan Submittals – Two Methods

- Application for plan review
  - Plan review application
  - Complete and accurate
  - Correct name of facility
  - All the applicable contact info and correct info
  - Form signed and dated
- Narrative
- Self-Certification form – request
  - Sealed and signed (Architect, Engineer and someone from the facility)
- Fees (for hospitals only)
- Current PR Time frame
Types of Plan Submittals – Two Methods

Fast Track Request

Fast Track (for large hospital projects only)

- A formal request on the facility letter head signed by the CEO, Administrator, etc.
- **Faxed or mailed.** No e-mail will be accepted
- Approval will be determined by size of project, length of construction, and cost.
- Once approved, the regular plan review process for submittal is required

**Only three packages accepted**

- Package one – civil, underground utilities, parking, foundation, and sub-structure
- Package two – Architectural plans
- Package three - MEP plans
Types of Plan Submittals – Two Methods

- **Minor Projects – Request**
  - Narrative – explaining what is being proposed
  - Floor plan(s)
  - **Faxed or mailed** - No e-mail will be reviewed or accepted

- **Outcomes of request**
  - Approved as a minor project – usually one final inspection is required
  - No project - proceed under your own risk
  - Disapproved - requires full plan review application with complete documents, etc.
Type of Inspections

- Inspection requests
  - The architect of record or the hospital owner/operator shall request an inspection by submitting, at least three weeks in advance of the requested inspection date.

- Intermediate - 80%

- Final Inspection - 100%
  - Needs to be complete

- Expectation at final inspections
  - Required to meet code and rules/regulations

- Inspection fee
  - Hospital only
    - $500.00 for each inspection

Lack of Disapproval does not Constitute Approval
In the future

- Submittal of Plan Reviews in the future
- All application submittal requirements will still be in effect.

In the future – Plans may be submitted on CD’s/DVD’s
  - When – to be determined
  - Goal – New year – 2013
  - Will be announced on our Web page.
  - Again - not e-mails.

Smoke compartmentalization plans will still be required to be submitted on paper.
How ARG look at codes and rules

- Patient safety
  - Occupant safety
- Patient quality of care
- Infection controls
  - Flooring and how is it sealed
  - Enough sinks
  - Bathroom rooms
- Fire safety
Open Forum