

PREPARING FOR YOUR LICENSE RENEWAL FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION

Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

The following list is not all-inclusive, but is designed to help you prepare for fire safety inspections (required every four years) and to keep your children safer from potential fire hazards throughout the year.

1. Are the self-closing mechanisms on all stairway doors properly adjusted to fully close and latch from any open position without assistance?
2. Are all of your egress doors, including outside exit doors, doors to individual classrooms, lavatory doors, etc., equipped with hardware that requires only a single motion to open from the inside even if the doors are locked? NOTE: If the hardware on any of these doors requires you to unlock the door first before you can turn the handle or operate the lever, it must be replaced with single-motion hardware. Also, sliding bolts, most thumbbolts, hook and eye devices, chain locks, or similar supplemental hardware are not permitted on any means of egress door.
3. Do your means of egress doors open freely without the need for excessive force? Binding doors, dragging doors or any such door that requires repair should be corrected prior to your inspection.
4. Do you have furnishings, cots, etc. in any location which may fall or be easily pushed into the required path of travel to exit the building? If so, all such items must be relocated.
5. Are all of your exits properly marked with approved exit signs? Exit signs must have minimum of 6-inch lettering with 3/4-inch brush strokes.
6. Do you have any cork or fiberboard bulletin boards in place? If so, can you verify their flame spread and smoke developed ratings? If not, it may be necessary to coat those boards with an approved flame retardant coating. NOTE: The coating option is only available if the bulletin board is over a noncombustible backer, e.g., drywall, concrete block, etc.
7. Are you using textile, plastic or vinyl to cover up storage and resource materials or to subdivide your program use areas? If so, plastics and vinyl must be removed and textiles must either be verified as meeting the requirements of NFPA 701 or they must be treated with an approved flame retardant. NOTE: Using a flame retardant coating is not allowed in any new construction or remodeling. A signed affidavit verifying the type of product used, who the installer was, the date the work was completed, and whether products were installed per the manufacturer's recommendations is needed. A copy of the manufacturer's flame spread, smoke density specifications is also needed.
8. Are you suspending any artwork or other combustible materials or decorations from or near the ceiling? If so, these must be removed.
9. Is more than 20% of each wall in each room covered with combustible decorations? If so, some must be removed.
10. Do you have textile decorations on the walls, e.g., quilts, cloth wall-hangings, etc., that are not flame retardant? If so, they will need to be treated with an approved flame retardant. A signed affidavit verifying the work is needed.
11. Have you converted any rooms that were not previously approved for storage into storage rooms? If so, the storage must be moved to an approved storage room or the storage room must be properly enclosed.

12. Look inside your storage rooms. Are there any openings around any pipes, ducts, conduit, or any other object that penetrates the walls or ceiling or any other openings that are not fire stopped? If so, these must be filled with minimum 1-hour fire rated or intumescent caulk or other approved fire stopping material. Note: Most fire-blocking foams are not suitable for this purpose.
13. Are the self-closing mechanisms on all storage room doors properly adjusted to fully close and latch from any open position without assistance?
14. Look in your furnace or boiler room. Are there any openings around any pipes, ducts, conduit, or any other object that penetrates the walls or ceiling or any other unprotected openings? If so, these must be filled with minimum 1-hour fire rated or intumescent caulk or other approved fire stopping material. Note: Most fire-blocking foams are not suitable for this purpose.
15. Are there any combustibles, e.g., wood, cardboard, plastic, rubber, leather, cloth, paints, floor finishes, etc., stored in your furnace or boiler room or in any other room that houses fuel-fired equipment such as a fuel-fired water heater? If so, they must be incidental to the maintenance or operations of the mechanical equipment inside of the room. All other combustible materials must be moved to an approved storage room or from the site.
16. Are there any flammable gases, gasoline, or gasoline-powered equipment in your heat plant room, exit ways or in any other room that opens into the center? If so, these must be removed. Other flammable materials, e.g., aerosols, etc., needed must be kept in designated cabinets and kept inaccessible to the children.
17. Has your boiler and/or fuel-fired furnace and any fuel-fired water heater been inspected by a qualified boiler inspector or licensed mechanical contractor? If so, you will need to furnish verification, e.g., tag on the equipment or other acceptable paperwork verifying the work has been done. If not, you will need an inspection on these units and obtain written verification that they are in a safe condition.
18. Are the self-closing mechanisms on all doors to your furnace room, boiler room or fuel-fired water heater room properly adjusted to fully close and latch without assistance?
19. Do you have B-labeled (60 minute) fire doors/frame assemblies at all interior openings into any commercial-style kitchen, e.g., commercial stove, multiple residential stoves, etc.? Are the self-closing mechanisms on these doors properly adjusted to fully close and latch without assistance? NOTE: Less restrictive requirements may apply if your center was licensed prior to June 4, 1980.
20. If your kitchen range hood is protected with an automatic hood suppression system, has it been serviced within the past six months?
21. Are the filters, grease extractors or range hood itself clean of any buildup of grease? If not, they must be cleaned.
22. Is there any portable heating equipment? If so, all such equipment must be removed.
23. If you have a commercial laundry, is it fully enclosed in 1-hour fire resistive construction, including B-labeled fire door/frame assemblies in any interior opening? If not, they must be installed.

24. If your building has multiple tenants, are any of the other tenants hazardous or unpredictable in nature, e.g., wood shops, industrial, automotive repairs, body shops, serve alcoholic beverages, etc.? Centers cannot occupy the same building as a hazardous or unpredictable occupancy without proper separation.
25. If your program is required to have a manual fire alarm device, e.g., manual bell or whistle, is it kept readily visible and accessible at all times?
26. If your program is required to have a fire alarm system, are there manual pull stations near all exits from the building? Has the system been serviced within the past year? System service verification is needed.
27. Do you have multipurpose portable fire extinguishers meeting the minimum classification of 2A-10BC on each floor level, in or immediately outside of any room that houses fuel-fired equipment, in or immediately outside of any kitchen (residential or commercial), and within a 75-foot travel distance of all other points within your center?
28. Are your fire extinguishers tagged with a current service tag by a qualified extinguisher firm? Did the service technician initial the tag as required?
29. Look at your electrical service panel. Are there any open circuit breaker slots (no circuit breaker and no cover over the open slot)? Do you see any open electrical junction boxes, spliced wires, loose or hanging wiring, loose or hanging fixtures?
30. Are there any electrical extension cords in use in your building? Electrical extension cords are permitted only for short-term applications, e.g., centering a movie projector and other temporary uses. They must be removed when not in use. Power strips are allowed if they are equipped with a surge protector and are not longer than 6 feet. Power strips cannot be connected to another power strip.
31. Are there any open flame devices or candles in your center? Are there any lit incense or other similar hot objects used? If so, they are only permitted during supervised religious services.
32. If your program was licensed after July of 2000, or if it has been expanded or modified after this date, are your new program use areas and their means of egress protected with smoke detectors? Smoke detectors must be provided in sufficient numbers to adequately cover the intended areas. In rooms, they must be spaced to cover a 30-foot square (no point in the room more than 21 feet from a smoke detector). Some rooms require more than one smoke detector. In corridors, detectors must be placed no more than 21-feet from an exit (also in any air-lock or foyer areas) and then every 42 feet on centers along the corridors to within 21 feet of the next required exit(s). NOTE: Smoke detectors must not be installed within 36 inches of any air diffuser, the ends of ceiling fan paddles, or anything else that could limit or delay smoke from reaching the detector.
33. If the center has fuel-fired heating systems, do you have an approved carbon monoxide detector on each child-occupied level and in each use area covered by a different furnace zone?
34. Do dryers have a metal vent? Are they vented completely to the exterior?
35. Are there conditions in the center that constitute a fire safety hazard? If so, these must be corrected.

Compliance with this list of requirements will go a long way toward bringing your center into compliance with the applicable fire safety regulations and keeping your children safe throughout the year. You should never hesitate to call if you have any questions relative to the fire safety requirements for licensing. Qualified Fire Inspectors (QFI) are here to serve you and to keep you, your staff and your children safe from the devastating effects of fire.

THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS NEEDED IN ORDER FOR YOUR QFI TO COMPLETE YOUR FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION PAPERWORK:

1. Complete program name and physical address.
2. How long has the program been licensed at this location?
3. License number.
4. Maximum number of children permitted by your license.
5. Ages of the children served.
6. Program director's name.
7. Name of your licensing consultant.
8. If available, the name of the last QFI to inspect your site.
9. Have there been any changes in the building since the program was last inspected by a QFI?
10. A copy of your floor plan diagram (typically used for your evacuation procedures) is also very helpful.

LARA is an equal opportunity employer/program.