

SEATTLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Information Bulletin #2004-1



Interim Policy on the Use and Placement of Alcohol-based Aerosol Hand Sanitizers

This bulletin provides an interim policy which is subject to change pending final action on pending model code and standards requirements.

Background

After reviewing the data published by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) it is apparent that alcohol-based hand rubs are responsible for a significant reduction in the infection rates at hospitals and other critical care facilities.

Based on available data it is the position of this Department that the typical alcohol foam hand-rub dispensers used in the healthcare setting are of such limited size and volume that the aerosol's contribution to the hazard of acceleration of fire development or fire spread is negligible.

Requirements

Therefore, installation of these dispensers both within patient rooms and outside patient rooms in corridors is conditionally approved provided they are installed in accordance with all of the following:

1. Level 2 and Level 3 aerosols containers shall not be allowed in corridors.
2. The maximum capacity of each Class I or II liquids dispenser shall be 41 ounces and the maximum capacity of each Level 1 aerosol dispenser shall be 18 ounces (.51 kg).
3. The maximum quantity allowed in a corridor within a control area shall be 10 gallons (37.85 L) of Class I or II liquids or 1135 ounces (32.2 kg) of Level 1 aerosols, or a combination of Class I or II liquids and Level 1 aerosols not to exceed, in total, the

equivalent of 10 gallons (37.85 L) or 1135 oz (32.2 kg).

4. The minimum corridor width shall be 72 inches (1829 mm).
5. Projections into a corridor shall be in accordance with Section 1003.3.3 of the 2003 Seattle Fire Code.
6. Dispensers shall not be installed above electrical outlets, light switches or other heat or ignition sources.
7. All storage of replacement alcohol-based hand sanitizing containers on patient floors, regardless of the quantity, shall be within approved flammable liquid storage cabinets.

All such installations shall be under permit from the Seattle Fire Department.