

### **Clarification on Fire Safety Requirements for Hospitals**

1. The Approved registration of the hospital by the applicable competent authority of the State Health Department (such as Nursing Home Act etc)/Alternate Department (such as Shops and Establishment acts) is the overarching regulatory requirement.
2. NOC by State Fire Department as applicable is to be complied with.
3. In case the Fire NOC is not available with the hospital, in the interest of patient safety, the hospital will ensure the following: (there should be clear evidence of the intent and efforts made to obtain fire NOC)
  - a. Obtain a Fire Safety Compliance Certificate from a reputable and credible third party agency, based on an in depth Fire Safety Audit of the hospital, by the agency. The Audit Report and Certificate will be submitted to NABH.
  - b. The Hospital will not have zero in any of the standard or objective elements referred to in NABH Standards in the Chapter of FMS, that relate to Fire Safety. The Assessment in such cases will be done by referring to a special Fire Safety checklist by the assessors.
  - c. On review of the assessment and fire safety audit reports, NABH may advise a verification visit to the hospital, wrt fire safety. This will be done on a case to case basis.
4. The Management of the hospital will provide a written commitment of their responsibility to ensure that their infrastructure, systems and processes will meet fire safety requirements.
5. During assessment, compliance to fire safety checklist shall be ensured irrespective of NOC.

In case of delay in NOC & when all other parameters of NABH accreditation requirements are fulfilled, including demonstrated fire safety mechanisms & drills, certification from an approved third party shall be obtained but all attempts shall continue to be made to procure an NOC from the Fire Services Department & this will need to be demonstrated as and when required by NABH.