GUIDE TO ELECTRICAL PATIENT CARE AREAS FOR HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

What type of development is classified as a "Health care facility"?

Health Care Facility - "A set of physical infrastructure elements that are intended to support the delivery of specific health-related services". Health Care Facilities include those where patients are provided with supportive, diagnostic, and treatment services. These facilities include dental clinics, chiropractors' offices, physicians' offices, optometrists' offices, physiotherapists' offices, private residences and others in addition to traditional hospital facilities.

What are "Patient Care Areas" that need to be identified for the electrical system design?

Within Health Care Facilities, rooms (or areas) are classified as **"Patient Care Areas"**. Patient Care Areas are "an area intended primarily for diagnosis, therapy, or care". An example of a patient care area is a treatment room within a physicians' office or a dental clinic.

Who designates the Patient Care Areas?

According to Standard CAN/CSA-Z32 "Electrical Safety and essential Electrical Systems in Health Care Facilities", the responsibility for defining a facility's electrical patient care areas lies with the health care facility administrator. The term "administrator" is used to denote the authority representing the health care facility and charged with responsibilities specified in the Standard. The administrator may (and usually does) delegate these responsibilities to appropriately qualified individuals.

How are the Patient Care Areas determined?

The level of patient care – basic, intermediate or critical – is determined based on the frequency or type of contact with medical electrical equipment.

Basic Care Area – a patient care area where body contact between a patient and medical electrical equipment is neither frequent nor usual.

Intermediate Care Area – a patient care area in which body contact between a patient and medical electrical equipment is frequent or normal.

Critical Care Area – a patient care area that is an anaesthetizing location, or in which cardiac contact between a patient and medical electrical equipment is frequent or normal.

Good engineering practice would normally reference Standard CAN/CSA-Z32 to classify Patient Care Areas within medical facilities. The classification can quite simply be chosen from the examples shown in Section 4.2.6 Patient care area classification.

What equipment is classified as “Medical Electrical Equipment”?

Patient care equipment — equipment used directly for patient treatment, diagnosis, or both.

CSA- Z32 1. 2.2 Electrical equipment:

(a) medical electrical equipment;
(b) health-care-facility-owned non-medical electrical equipment;
(c) patient-owned electrical devices; and
(d) the use and management of the equipment and installations in patient care areas.

The electrical equipment described in Items (a) to (c) can be portable or permanently connected.

What is this information used for:

Design, installation and inspection of wiring methods specific to each of the Patient Care Areas.

What must be submitted (along with standard drawings and documentation) for a permit application?

The Electrical Patient Care Areas Declaration form must be submitted for all health care facilities. It will be used to identify and document electrical patient care areas, or the absence thereof, in Health Care Facilities.

For all health care facilities:

1, The facility administrator must complete a form “Electrical Patient Care Areas Declaration for Health Care Facilities”.

If the facility **DOES NOT CONTAIN** any Patient Care Areas, check Box A on the declaration form

Where the facility **DOES CONTAIN** Patient Care Areas, read the information below and check either Box B or C on the declaration, as applicable.

2. Where an Engineer is responsible for the electrical design is required or has otherwise been retained,

a. It is assumed that the engineer has discussed the Declaration with the facility administrator and advised as to its accurate completion, and

b. The engineer must provide detailed drawings for the installation of patient care wiring methods for the level(s) of patient care area(s) applicable to the project.

3. In the absence of an engineer, the electrical contractor must provide the detail noted in 2.b. above.