

January, 2012

Update from Roger Gehrke, ISHE Advocate

The following information has been provided by Chad Beebe at ASHE:

There has been a lot of discussion lately on the ASHE listserv about low end humidity requirements. We have been working over the past 6 months with the Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services to resolve this issue. Unfortunately, the issue is very complex when you consider the clarity of the requirement found in NFPA 99. It's difficult for a federal agency to just change their rules on a whim. This is both a good and a bad thing, while it doesn't help utilize new technology and change the rules as quick as we would like, it also keeps the federal government from being able to surprise us with changes every time step into our facilities. The attached article outlines the process for requesting a waiver once a facility has been cited. CMS has not guaranteed that these waivers will be accepted, but following this process for the waivers will give the facility the best chance of acceptance, and will leave open the option for any appeals that may be needed. This will be posted on our website and sent out next Tuesday in our ASHE Insider email, unfortunately that only reaches out to ASHE members. You are receiving this early and I encourage you to send this out to all of your chapter members as soon as possible. I will also be posting this on the ASHE listserv.

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