

4.2 Specific Requirements for Assisted Living Facilities

Appendix material, shown in shaded boxes at the bottom of the page, is advisory only.

■ 4.2-1 General

4.2-1.1 Application

4.2-1.1.1 General

4.2-1.1.1.1 This chapter contains specific requirements for assisted living facilities.

4.2-1.1.1.2 The requirements in Chapter 4.1 (Common Elements for Residential Care and Support Facilities) shall apply to assisted living facilities as referenced in this chapter, including the requirements in Section 4.1-1.1 (Application).

4.2-1.1.1.3 The requirements in Part 2 (Common Elements for Residential Health, Care, and Support Facilities) shall apply to assisted living facilities as referenced in this chapter.

*4.2-1.1.2 Assisted Living Facility Types

4.2-1.1.3 Minimum Standards for New Assisted Living Facilities

4.2-1.1.3.1 This chapter acknowledges that the many resident-driven variations in assisted living facilities

represent the programmatic needs and preferences of the individuals who choose to live in them. Therefore, the requirements and recommendations contained herein are intended to represent basic standards to ensure the safety, accessibility, and residential aspects of all assisted living facilities.

4.2-1.1.3.2 This chapter identifies the minimum requirements for assisted living facilities and recognizes various configurations of assisted living facilities, which must comply with applicable state and local requirements. Acknowledging that occupancy and building construction requirements vary among jurisdictions, it is the intent of this chapter to establish minimal standards for safety and accessibility for a residential care environment, regardless of facility scope and scale. The common goal of this chapter and individual local and state requirements is to facilitate accountability and protection of the resident.

4.2-1.2 Functional Program

4.2-1.2.1 General

4.2-1.2.1.1 See Section 1.2-2.1 (Functional Program—General) and Section 1.2-3 (Resident Safety Risk Assessment) for requirements in addition to those in this section.

APPENDIX

A4.2-1.1.2 Assisted living facility types. Assisted living facilities are a vital and growing component of the continuum of care, providing a supportive residential environment for consumer-directed services.

In practice, assisted living facilities can vary substantially from one state to the next and even in the same state. In some states, the entity that provides services is licensed rather than the building itself. In addition, assisted living facility design varies by location, taking into consideration the cultural, geographic, socioeconomic, and ethnic characteristics of the area.

Assisted living facilities provide care for individuals who need or desire assistance with medications and activities of daily living (e.g., eating, bathing, dressing, toileting, ambulating). Some facilities care only for people requiring minimal assistance, while others may offer more intensive services, including dementia-specific care. The design and construction of assisted living facilities, as much as possible, should reflect the needs and preferences of the individuals who reside in the facility.