

**FILE NO.: 07-01**  
**MUNICIPALITY: Statewide**  
**REQUESTED BY: State Fire Marshal George Farrell**  
**SUBJECT: Alcohol-based Hand-rub Solutions**  
**APPROVED ON: 2007-01-09**

FIRE SAFETY CODE BOARD OF APPEAL & REVIEW  
FORMAL INTERPRETATION 07-01

**General Background:**

Following several reported cases of the transmission of infectious respiratory disease in Rhode Island schools, on January 5, 2007 Governor Donald L. Carcieri issued Executive Order 07-01 directing the Rhode Island Department of Health to establish and maintain alcohol based hand-washing programs in all elementary and secondary schools throughout the state.

**Question Presented:**

On January 9, 2007 State Fire Marshal George S. Farrell appeared before the State Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal & Review and testified that a similar program has previously been implemented in healthcare facilities pursuant to TIA 03-6 (NFPA 101) (SC-04-4-17/Log 787) with an effective date of May 5, 2004. These newly adopted code provisions can be found at **101:18.3.2.6** and **101:19.3.2.6**. In light of the fact the Board previously supported and adopted these regulations for healthcare occupancies, Marshal Farrell is requesting that the Board approve similar requirements for educational occupancies.

**Board's Response to State Fire Marshal's Question:**

In consideration of Rhode Island Executive Order # 07-01 and previous Board action approving the use of alcohol-based hand-rub solutions in healthcare facilities, The Board hereby authorizes and adopts the following new sections to the Rhode Island Life Safety Code:

(ADD)  
7.3.2.2.1

In new and existing educational occupancies, projections within the means of egress of not more than 6 in. (150 mm) on each side at a height of 38 in. (965 mm) and below

shall be permitted for the installation of hand-rub dispensing units in accordance with sections 14.3.2.4 and 15.3.2.4.

(ADD)

14.3.2.4

**14.3.2.4 Alcohol-based Hand-rub Solutions.** Alcohol-based hand-rub dispensers shall be protected in accordance with 8.7.3 unless all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) Where dispensers are installed in a corridor, the corridor shall have a minimum width of 6 ft (1830 mm).
- (2) The maximum individual dispenser fluid capacity shall be as follows:
  - (a) 0.32 gal (1.2 L) for dispensers in rooms, corridors, and areas open to corridors
  - (b) 0.53 gal (2.0 L) for dispensers in suites of rooms
- (3) The dispensers shall be separated from each other by horizontal spacing of not less than 48 in. (1220 mm).
- (4) Not more than an aggregate of 10 gal (37.8 L) of alcohol-based hand rub solution shall be used outside of a storage cabinet in a single smoke compartment.
- (5) Storage of quantities greater than 5 gal (18.9 L) in a single smoke compartment shall meet the requirements of NFPA 30, *Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code*.
- (6) The dispensers shall not be installed over or directly adjacent to an ignition source.
- (7) Dispensers installed directly over carpeted floors shall be permitted only in sprinklered smoke compartments.

(ADD)

14.3.2.4

**15.3.2.4 Alcohol-based Hand-rub Solutions.** Alcohol-based hand-rub dispensers shall be protected in accordance with 8.7.3 unless all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) Where dispensers are installed in a corridor, the corridor shall have a minimum width of 6 ft (1830 mm).
- (2) The maximum individual dispenser fluid capacity shall be as follows:
  - (a) 0.32 gal (1.2 L) for dispensers in rooms, corridors, and areas open to corridors
  - (b) 0.53 gal (2.0 L) for dispensers in suites of rooms
- (3) The dispensers shall be separated from each other by horizontal spacing of not less than 48 in. (1220 mm).
- (4) Not more than an aggregate of 10 gal (37.8 L) of alcohol-based hand rub solution shall be used outside of a storage cabinet in a single smoke compartment.
- (5) Storage of quantities greater than 5 gal (18.9 L) in a single smoke compartment shall meet the requirements of NFPA 30, *Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code*.
- (6) The dispensers shall not be installed over or directly adjacent to an ignition source.
- (7) Dispensers installed directly over carpeted floors shall be permitted only in sprinklered smoke compartments.