

COUNTY OF SUMMIT, OHIO

Russell M. Pry, Executive

Department of Development, Building Standards Division · www.co.summit.oh.us ·
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November 13, 2009

To: Master Plan Examiners, Field Inspection Personnel and Design Professionals

From: John Labriola; Chief Building Official

Re: Visual Signaling Appliances (Strobes); and Compliance with ADA 4.28.1

Medical Care Facilities “Patient Care Rooms”

General Rule:

Hospitals; or (a) When a new or altered structure includes patient care (exam or
other (I use) treatment) rooms, visual signaling appliances (strobes) shall be
installed in all such common use spaces.

**Alternative #1 A minimum 10% of all patient care (exam or treatment) rooms
shall be provided with visual signaling appliances (strobes) and
designation of those specific room(s) as hearing impaired with
appropriate permanent placards. (As determined by ADA 6.1(1))**

**Alternative #2 Provide written documentation from the local Fire Official
specifying their acceptance of the owner’s supervised emergency
action plan and verification of adequately trained staff to safely
evacuate patients (Submission to Building Standards for review
is required). Referenced Material: United States Access Board;
Technical Bulletin Visual Alarms, dated August 2003.**

Dentist, Business use facilities are designated as (2) separate sub-categories,
Physician required and non-required fire alarm systems.
Offices and
Outpatient care
facilities; (B use)

Required: Determined the same as hospitals or other I use facilities, the above
referenced rule and alternatives apply regarding placement of visual
signaling appliances (strobes) in individual patient care (exam or
treatment) rooms.

Non-required: There are no requirements for visual signaling appliances (strobes) in
patient care (exam or treatment) rooms in these facilities. Clearly, if a
fire alarm system is installed, inclusion of these additional safety
devices are recommended, however they are not required by Code.