(b) The location and construction of all nursing facilities shall comply with local zoning, building, and fire ordinances. Evidence to this effect, signed by local fire, building, and zoning officials shall be furnished to the Alabama Department of Public Health.

(c) Nursing facilities shall be located on streets or roads which are kept passable at all times. Facilities constructed after the effective date of these rules shall be located on paved roads.

(a) When construction is contemplated, either for new buildings, conversions, additions, or alterations to existing buildings coming within the scope of these rules, plans and specifications shall be submitted for review and approval to the Alabama Department of Public Health, in accordance with Alabama Administrative Code Rule 420-5-22, "Submission of Plans and Specifications for Health Care Facilities."

(b) Minor alterations and remodeling which do not affect the structural integrity of the building, which does not change functional operation, which does not affect fire safety, and which does not add beds over those for which the facility is licensed, need not be submitted for approval. Documentation shall be maintained for interior wall covering finishes.

(c) The renovation area of an existing nursing facility shall comply with the current requirements for new construction to the extent possible.

(b) Renovations within an existing facility shall comply with the applicable codes and requirements for new work.

(a) The provisions of this section, in addition to the provisions of Chapter 420-5-10.18(4), (6) & (7), shall apply to all new nursing facilities or additions or renovations to nursing facilities initially licensed after the effective date of these rules or to any existing nursing facility which meets or can readily be improved to meet these requirements.

(b) Facilities initially licensed, as well as additions or alterations to existing facilities, constructed after the effective date of these rules shall be classified as Health Care Occupancy, and shall comply, at the time of plan approval, with codes and standards adopted by the State Board of Health. See Alabama Administrative Code, Rule 420-5-22, for listing of adopted codes and standards.

(c) Doors.

— All doors in line of exit travel shall be hinged and shall swing in the line of travel.

— All exit doors serving residents including doors to stairs shall be a minimum 44 inches wide.

— Doors to toilets used by residents in additions or new facilities shall be at least 34 inches wide.

— Where rated doors are required by code, a permanent label from an independent testing
laboratory shall be attached to the door.

(d) Corridors in resident areas shall be at least eight feet wide, except as permitted by code.

(e) Exit passageways other than corridors in resident areas shall not be less than four feet wide.

(f) Corridors and passageways shall be unobstructed and shall not lead through any room or space used for a purpose that may obstruct free passage.

(g) Handrails shall be installed on both sides of all corridors normally used by residents except between doors in spaces 24 inches or less.

The handrails shall have a circular grip, a clearance of 1½ inch from the wall and be mounted 30-34 inches from the floor to the top of the rail.

Handrails shall return to the wall at all terminations.

Handrails may be omitted where service corridors are not part of a required exit from resident areas, the corridor is not a path of circulation from one resident area to another and cross corridor doors are installed. These doors shall separate resident corridors from service corridors and shall normally remain closed.

(h) Each tub or shower shall be in an individual room or enclosure with space for the private use of the bathing fixture, for drying and dressing. A separate toilet shall be available for each central bathing area without requiring entry into the general corridor.

(i) If a facility chooses to admit or retain residents requiring life support equipment, essential electrical distribution systems shall conform to a Type II System as required in NFPA 99. As a minimum, life support systems shall be provided in 10% of the bedrooms and receptacles every 50 feet on alternating walls in the corridor.

(6) Rooms, Spaces and Equipment - New and Existing Facilities.

(a) Nursing Unit. A nursing unit consists of the number of beds served from one nurses' station and includes all of the necessary support areas required to provide care to the residents.

1. Each nursing unit shall have:

(i) Nurses station.

(ii) Clean utility room.

(iii) Medicine preparation room.

(iv) Soiled utility room or soiled holding room.

(v) Clean linen storage room.

(vi) Wheelchair and stretcher storage areas.
(vii) Janitor's closet with mop sink or floor receptor and storage shelving.

(viii) Nourishment room.

(ix) Staff restroom.

2. On a nursing unit, no residents' bedroom door shall be more than 150 feet from the nurses' station.

(b) Bedrooms.

1. All bedrooms shall have window(s) with the windowsills not more than three feet above the floor. Windows shall not be below grade.

2. The window area shall not be less than one-tenth of the floor area.

3. Residents' bedrooms shall be located so as to minimize the entrance of odors, noise and other nuisances.

4. Residents' bedrooms shall be directly accessible from the main corridor of the nursing unit. Existing resident bedrooms may be accessible from any public space other than the dining room. In no case shall a resident's bedroom be used for access to another resident's room.

5. The capacity of any new room shall not exceed two residents, and the capacity of existing rooms shall not exceed four residents.

6. The minimum floor area of bedrooms, exclusive of toilets, closets, wardrobes, alcoves, or vestibules in facilities and additions to existing facilities constructed after October 20, 1967, shall be as follows: Private Room 100 Square Feet Multi-Resident Room 80 Square Feet Per Resident

7. There shall be sufficient space to permit nursing procedures to be performed and to permit the placing of beds at least three feet apart, and three feet from the wall at the foot of the bed. Sides of beds shall maintain a minimum clearance of 12 inches from electrical outlets in walls, unless electrical outlet and plug protection is maintained.

(c) Provisions for privacy. Each multi-resident room shall have permanently installed cubicle curtain tracks to permit enclosing each bed with curtains to allow for the privacy of each resident without obstructing the passage of other residents either to the corridor, closet, or to the toilet/lavatory adjacent to the resident room.

(d) Accommodations for Residents. The minimum accommodations for residents shall include the following:

Residents shall be provided with a standard or adjustable bed.

Chair and bedside table.

Storage space for clothing, toilet articles and personal belongings.

Bedside electrical call system for summoning aid.
- Waste paper receptacle.

- A headwall bed light must be mounted so that it is operable by the resident from the bed.

- Nursing facilities or additions to nursing facilities constructed after November 16, 1988, shall provide hand washing lavatory in each bedroom. It may be omitted from bedroom when a lavatory is provided in an adjoining toilet or bathroom.

(e) Isolation Room.

- Isolation rooms shall be provided at the rate of not less than one private bedroom per 50 beds or major fraction thereof for the isolation of residents suffering from infectious diseases as defined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The bedroom shall meet all of the requirements for bedrooms as previously stated in these regulations. Isolation bedrooms may be used to provide for the special care of residents who develop acute illnesses, have personality problems, or residents in terminal phases of illness. If central heating/cooling is provided, the air from the room shall be exhausted directly to the outside.

- Isolation rooms in nursing facilities shall have a lavatory within the room or within a private toilet.

(f) Nurses’ Station. The nurses’ station for each nursing unit shall include as a minimum the following:

- Annunciator board for receiving residents’ calls.

- Cabinet space.

- Storage space for current residents’ charts.

- Working space and accommodations for recording and charting purposes by facility staff.

- Medicine preparation room. The room at each nurses’ station shall have, as a minimum, 80 square feet of floor space with an additional square foot for each bed in excess of 50 beds per unit. This requirement pertains to any construction or renovation after November 16, 1988. If medication carts are utilized, sufficient storage space for the carts and over-the-counter stock medications must be provided in lieu of a medication preparation room.

(g) Utility Rooms. In new nursing facilities and in additions to existing nursing facilities after December 26, 1988, a separate clean and soiled utility room shall be provided for each nursing unit.

- 1. The clean utility room shall contain as a minimum:

- (i) Wall and base cabinets.

- (ii) Counter space.

- (iii) Counter top sink.

- (iv) Paper towel dispenser.
2. The soiled utility room shall contain as a minimum:
   (i) Paper towel and soap dispensers.
   (ii) Shelves.
   (iii) Cabinets for storage of poisonous substances; i.e., cleaning supplies, urine test products, etc.
   (iv) Counter top.
   (v) Large single compartment counter or freestanding service sink for chemical sterilization of bedpans, urinals and commode pails.
   (vi) Wall mounted or counter top hand washing lavatory, separate from the service sink.
   (vii) Soiled linen hamper(s).
   (viii) Clinical sink or equivalent flushing-rim fixture unless toilet with bedpan lug and bedpan washer are provided in adjoining toilets to all bedrooms in the nursing unit.

3. In nursing facilities constructed prior to December 26, 1988, each nursing unit shall have at least a clean/soiled utility room, but it is recommended that a separate clean and soiled utility room be provided.

(h) Toilet and Bathing Facilities.

1. For all resident bedrooms, which do not have adjoining toilet and bath facilities, plumbing fixtures shall be provided within the nursing unit, according to the following ratio: Bathtubs or Showers 1 per 25 Beds Lavatories 1 per 6 Beds Toilets (water closets) 1 per 6 Beds

2. Non-skid mats, or equivalent and grab bars shall be provided at tubs and showers. Grab handles on soap dishes are not acceptable for grab bars.

3. Grab bars shall be provided at each water closet.

(i) Nourishment Room.

Nursing units in facilities and additions to facilities constructed after August 23, 1996, shall have a nourishment room containing a work counter, refrigerator, storage cabinet, and a sink for serving nourishments between meals. Ice for residents’ consumption shall be provided by icemaker units. The nourishment room shall include space for trays and dishes used in non-scheduled meal service.

Existing facilities shall provide a nourishment room in accordance with the above paragraph when the nursing unit is remodeled or expanded.

Nourishment room shall be separated from corridor by wall and door.
(j) Dining/Recreation/Sitting. In new nursing facilities or additions to nursing facilities, there shall be resident dining, and recreation/sitting areas in accordance with the following:

1. The total area set aside for these purposes shall be at least 20 square feet per bed for new facilities and for expanded facilities.

(i) Dining Room. The dining room shall be capable of seating 50% of the bed capacity.

(ii) Recreation/sitting area. These areas shall not include exterior porches and lobby/waiting room.

As a minimum, facility shall include two separate recreation/sitting areas and a dining area.

Each nursing unit shall contain at least one recreation/sitting area.

A minimum of at least one porch and/or glass enclosed sun parlor shall be provided for the use of residents.

(k) Physical Therapy. Physical therapy areas, if provided, shall be in a specifically designated area and shall include equipment and areas as needed to meet specific resident requirements and shall also include storage space for linens, supplies, and equipment, a counter top or wall hung handwash lavatory and a service sink in a counter or freestanding.

(l) Laundry.

1. The existing laundry room, or storage and counting area shall be located so that soiled linens are not carried through the food service area.

2. Laundries built, renovated, or added to after August 23, 1996, shall provide the following rooms and shall comply with the additional requirements:

(i) Adequate holding, and sorting room for control and distribution of soiled linen. Discharge from soiled linen chutes may be received within this room or in a separate room (soiled linen room).

(ii) The laundry shall be vented so that odors do not enter the nursing facility. Air shall not be recirculated into a heating or cooling system serving other areas of the nursing facility.

(iii) Corridors shall not be used to store or hold soiled linen or clean linen carts at any time of the day. Adequate space shall be provided in the soiled linen room and laundry processing room to prevent this.

(m) Beauty/Barber Shop. Nursing facilities or additions to nursing facilities licensed after November 16, 1988, shall have space and equipment for resident hair care and grooming. The room shall open to a corridor.

(n) Administration. The administrative department and services shall be located in a specifically designated area and shall include the following:

Administrator's office.
— Business office.
— Public lobby or waiting room.
— Public toilets.
— For facilities constructed after August 23, 1996, or when existing lobbies are renovated, handicapped public toilets accessible from the lobby/waiting room shall be provided.
— (o) Support Offices. Nursing facilities or additions to nursing facilities constructed after August 23, 1996, shall provide office space for all support staff.
— (p) Nursing facilities and additions to nursing facilities constructed after August 23, 1996, shall provide adequate closet or locker storage space for staff’s work related personal items.
— (q) Maintenance. Each facility shall provide facilities/room(s) to accommodate routine maintenance appropriate to the needs.