Rule R432-4. General Construction.

As in effect on April 1, 2006

Table of Contents

- R432-4-1. Legal Authority.
- R432-4-2. Purpose.
- R432-4-3. General Design.
- R432-4-4. Site Location.
- R432-4-5. Site Design.
- R432-4-6. Parking.
- R432-4-7. Environmental Pollution Control.
- R432-4-8. Standards Compliance.
- R432-4-10. Existing Building Licensure.
- R432-4-12. Mixed Occupancies.
- R432-4-14. Plan Review.
- R432-4-15. Functional Program.
- R432-4-16. Drawings.
- R432-4-17. Construction Inspections.
- R432-4-20. Construction Phasing.
- R432-4-21. Outpatient Unit Features.
- R432-4-22. Standards for Accessibility.
- R432-4-23. General Construction.
- R432-4-25. Excluded Sections of the Guidelines.
- R432-4-26. Penalties.
- KEY

Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment
Notice of Continuation
Authorizing, Implemented, or Interpreted Law
R432-4-1. Legal Authority.

This rule is adopted pursuant to Title 26 Chapter 21 for General Hospitals; Specialty Hospitals; Ambulatory Surgical Facilities; Nursing Care Facilities; Inpatient Hospices; Birthing Centers; Abortion Clinics; and Small Health Care Facilities, Levels I, II and III.

R432-4-2. Purpose.

The purpose of this rule is to promote the health and welfare of individuals receiving services by establishing construction standards.

R432-4-3. General Design.

(1) The licensee is responsible for assuring compliance with this section.

(2) When testing and certification compliance can only be verified through written documentation, the licensee must maintain documentation in the facility for Department review.

(3) Additional requirements for individual health care facility categories are included in the individual category construction rules sections of the Health Facility Licensure Rules, R432. If conflicts exist between R432-4 and individual category rules, the individual category rules govern.

(4) If conflicts exist between applicable codes, the most restrictive code applies.

(5) When other authorities having jurisdiction adopt more restrictive requirements than contained in these rules, the more restrictive requirements apply.

(6) The licensee shall ensure the building complies with the functional requirements for the applicable licensure classification and shall ensure provisions are made for all facilities and equipment necessary to meet the care and safety needs of all clients served, when construction is completed.

R432-4-4. Site Location.

(1) The site of the licensed health care facility shall be accessible to both community and service vehicles, including fire protection apparatus.

(2) Facilities shall ensure that public utilities are available.

R432-4-5. Site Design.

(1) Paved roads shall be provided within the property for access to all entrances, service docks and for fire equipment access to all exterior walls.

(2) Paved walkways shall be provided for pedestrian traffic.
(3) Paved walkways shall be provided from every required exit to a dedicated public way.

(4) Hospitals with an organized emergency service shall have well marked emergency access to facilitate entry from public roads or streets serving the site. Vehicular or pedestrian traffic shall not conflict with access to the emergency service area. The emergency entrance shall be covered to ensure protection for patients during transfer from automobile or ambulance.

**R432-4-6. Parking.**

(1) Parking shall be provided in accordance with local zoning ordinances.

(2) If local zoning ordinances do not exist, Section 3.2.B Parking, from Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospital and Health Care Facilities 2001 Edition shall apply and is adopted and incorporated by reference.

(3) The requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines, (ADAAG) for handicapped parking access shall apply and parking spaces for the disabled shall be directly accessible to the facility without the need to go behind parked cars.

**R432-4-7. Environmental Pollution Control.**

Public Law 91-190, National Environment Policy Act, requires the site and project be developed to minimize any adverse environmental effects on the neighborhood and community. Environmental clearances and permits shall be obtained from local jurisdictions and the Utah Department of Environmental Quality.

**R432-4-8. Standards Compliance.**

(1) The following standards are adopted and incorporated by reference:

(a) Illuminating Engineering Society of North America, IESNA, publication RP-29-95, Lighting for Hospitals and Health Care Facilities, 1995 edition;

(b) The following chapters of the National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Code, NFPA 101, 2000 edition:

(i) Chapter 18, New Health Care Occupancies;

(ii) Chapter 19, Existing Health Care Occupancies.

(2) The following codes and standards apply to health care facilities. The licensee shall obtain clearance from the authority having jurisdiction and submit documentation to the Department verifying compliance with these codes and standards as they apply to the category of health care facility being constructed:

(a) Local zoning ordinances;
(b) International Building Code, 2000 edition;
(c) Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines, (ADAAG) 28 CFR 36, Appendix A, (July 1993);
(d) International Mechanical Code, 2000 edition;
(e) International Plumbing Code, 2000 edition;
(g) R313. Environmental Health, Radiation Control, 1994;
(h) R309. Environmental Health, Drinking Water and Sanitation, 1994;
(i) R315. Environmental Health, Solid and Hazardous Waste, 1994;
(j) NFPA 70, National Electric Code, 1999 edition;
(k) NFPA 99, Standards for Health Care Facilities, 1999 edition;
(m) American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), Handbook of Fundamentals, 1997 edition.

(3) The licensee shall obtain a Certificate of Occupancy from the local building official having jurisdiction.

(4) The licensee shall obtain a Certificate of Fire Clearance from the Fire Marshal having jurisdiction.

(5) The licensee must obtain clearance from the Department prior to utilization of newly constructed facilities and additions or remodels of existing facilities.


(1) New construction, additions and remodels to existing structures, shall comply with Department rules in effect on the date the schematic drawings are submitted to the Department.

(2) If the remodeled area or addition in any building, wing, floor or service area of a building exceeds 50 percent of the total square foot area of the building, wing, floor or service area, then the entire building, wing, floor or service area shall be brought into compliance with adopted codes and rules governing new construction which are in effect on the date the schematic drawings are submitted to the Department.

(3) During remodeling and new construction, the licensee must maintain the safety level which existed prior to the start of work.
R432-4-10. Existing Building Licensure.

(1) Existing buildings, currently licensed, shall conform to Department construction rules in effect at the time of original facility licensure.

(2) Existing buildings which are currently licensed, or which were previously licensed, but are changing classification; or for which the licensed has lapsed, shall comply with requirements for new construction.


(1) Paint, carpet, wall coverings, and other new materials installed as part of a refurbishing project shall comply with R432-4-8.

(2) The licensee shall maintain documentation of compliance with codes, rules, and standards.

R432-4-12. Mixed Occupancies.

(1) Health care occupancies must be separated from non-health care occupancies in accordance with requirements of the local jurisdiction.

(2) If separation of occupancies is not practical, the most restrictive occupancy requirements apply to the building.


All housing, treatment, and diagnostic areas and facilities utilized by a patient admitted to a licensed health care facility shall be constructed in accordance with the requirements of R432-4 if:

(1) the area will be used by one or more patients who are physically or mentally incapable of taking independent life saving action in an emergency;

(2) the prescribed or administered treatment renders the patient incapable of taking independent life saving action in an emergency; or

(3) the patient is incapable of taking independent life saving action in an emergency due to physical or chemical restraints.

R432-4-14. Plan Review.

(1) Prior to submitting documents for plans review, the facility licensee or designee shall schedule a conference with Department representatives, the licensee’s architect, and the licensee or his designee to outline the required plans review process.

(2) The licensee shall submit the following for Department review:
(a) a functional program,
(b) schematic drawings,
(c) design development drawings,
(d) working drawings,
(e) specifications.

(3) The Department may initiate review when all required documents and fees are received.

(4) Working drawings and specifications for new construction, additions, or remodeling must have the seal of a Utah licensed architect affixed, in compliance with Section 58-3a-602.

(5) The licensee shall pay a plans review and construction inspection fee assessed by the Department in accordance with the fee schedule approved by the Legislature.

(6) Plans approval by the Department shall not relieve the licensee of responsibility for full compliance with R432-4.

(7) Plan approval expires 12 months after the date of the Department's approval letter, or the latest plan review response letter, if construction has not commenced.

(8) After a 12 month lapse, the licensee must resubmit plans and a new plan review fee to the Department and obtain a new letter of approval before work proceeds.

(9) The Department may issue a license or modify a license only after the Department has determined the facility complies with adopted construction rules and has obtained all clearances and certifications.

R432-4-15. Functional Program.

The functional program required in R432-4-14(2)(a) must include the following:

(1) the purpose and proposed license category of the facility;
(2) services offered, including a detailed description of each service;
(3) ancillary services required to support each function or program;
(4) departmental relationships;
(5) services offered under contract by outside providers and the required in-house facilities to support these services;
(6) services shared with other licensure categories or functions;

(7) a description of anticipated in-patient workloads;

(8) a description of anticipated out-patient workloads;

(9) physical and mental condition of intended patients;

(10) patient age range;

(11) ambulatory condition of intended patients, such as non-ambulatory, mobile, or ambulatory;

(12) type and use of general or local anesthetics;

(13) use of physical or chemical restraints;

(14) special requirements which could affect the building;

(15) area requirements for each service offered, stated in net square feet;

(16) seclusion treatment rooms, if provided, including staff monitoring procedures;

(17) exhaust systems, medical gases, laboratory hoods, filters on air conditioning systems, and other special mechanical requirements;

(18) special electrical requirements;

(19) x-ray facilities, nurse call systems, communication systems, and other special systems;

(20) a list of specialized equipment which could require special dedicated services or special structures.

(21) a description of how essential core services will accommodate increased demand, if a building is designed for expansion;

(22) inpatient services, treatment areas, or diagnostic facilities planned or anticipated to be housed in other buildings, the construction type of the other buildings, and provisions for protecting the patient during transport between buildings.

(23) infection control risk assessment to determine the need for the number and types of isolation rooms over and above the minimum numbers required by the Guidelines.

**R432-4-16. Drawings.**

Drawings must show all equipment necessary for the operation of the facility.
(1) Schematic drawings may be single line and shall contain the following information:

(a) list of applicable building codes;

(b) location of the building on the site and access to the building for public, emergency, and service vehicles;

(c) site drainage;

(d) any unusual site conditions, including easements which might affect the building or its appurtenances;

(e) relationships of departments to each other, to support facilities, and to common facilities;

(f) relationships of rooms and areas within departments;

(g) number of inpatient beds;

(h) total building area or area of additions or remodeled portions.

(2) Design development drawings, drawn to scale, shall contain the following information:

(a) room sizes;

(b) type of construction, using International Building Code classifications;

(c) site plan, showing relationship to streets and vehicle access;

(d) outline specification;

(e) location of fire walls, corridor protection, fire hydrants, and other fire protection equipment;

(f) location and size of all public utilities;

(g) types of mechanical, electrical and auxiliary systems; and

(h) provisions for the installation of equipment which requires dedicated building services, special structure or which require a major function of space.

(3) Working drawings shall include all previous submitted drawings and specifications.

(a) The licensee shall provide one copy of completed working drawings and specifications to the Department.
(b) Within 30 days after receipt of the required documentation and plan review fee, the Department will provide to the licensee and the project architect a written report of modifications required to comply with construction standards.

(c) The licensee shall submit the revised plans for review and final Department approval.

R432-4-17. Construction Inspections.

(1) The Department may conduct interim inspections during construction.

(2) The licensee shall schedule with the Department a final construction inspection when the project is complete and all furnishings and equipment are in place, but prior to utilization.


(1) If construction is commenced without prior Department plans approval, the Department may issue a license and approve occupancy only after as-built drawings have been approved by the Department and the Department has conducted a construction inspection.

(2) The licensee must correct all noncompliant items and pay the full plans review fee and inspection fee in accordance with the established fee schedule prior to licensure and patient occupancy.


(1) If plans are not available for existing buildings, or for facilities requesting an initial license or license category change, the licensee may submit to the Department the following information:

(a) a functional program described in R432-4-15;

(b) a report identifying modifications to the building required to bring it into compliance with construction rules for the requested licensure category.

(2) The Department shall review the material submitted and within 30 days after receipt of the required material, furnish to the licensee a letter of approval or rejection. The Department may provide, at its option, a report of modifications required to comply with construction standards.

(3) The licensee shall request and schedule a Department follow up inspection upon completion of the modifications.

(4) Prior to a final Department inspection, the licensee must pay an inspection fee in accordance with the fee schedule approved by the Legislature.
(5) The Department may issue a license when the building is in compliance with all licensing rules.

**R432-4-20. Construction Phasing.**

Projects involving remodeling or additions to existing buildings shall be scheduled and phased to minimize disruption to the occupants of facilities and to protect the occupants against construction traffic, dust, and dirt from the construction site. Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospital and Health Care Facilities 2001 edition Section 5 is adopted and incorporated by reference.

**R432-4-21. Outpatient Unit Features.**

(1) If a building entrance is used to reach outpatient services, the entrance must be at grade level, clearly marked, and located to minimize the need for outpatients to traverse other program areas. The outpatient surgery discharge location must provide protection from the weather by canopies that extend from the building to permit sheltered transfer to an automobile.

(2) Lobbies of multi-occupancy buildings may be shared if the design prohibits unrelated traffic within or through units or suites of the licensed health care facility.

**R432-4-22. Standards for Accessibility.**

(1) At least one drinking fountain, toilet, and handwashing facility shall be available on each floor for persons with disabilities.

(2) Each room required to be accessible to persons utilizing wheelchairs shall comply with ADAAG.

**R432-4-23. General Construction.**

(1) Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospital and Health Care Facilities 2001 edition, Section 7 and Appendix A (Guidelines), and Sections 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, and 9.9 for free-standing satellites or in-house outpatient programs, are adopted and incorporated by reference except as modified in this section. Swing beds must meet the requirements of Sections 7 and 8 of the Guidelines.

(2) If a modification is cited for the Guidelines, the modification supersedes conflicting requirements of the Guidelines.

(3) Yard equipment and supply storage areas shall be located so that equipment may be moved directly to the exterior without passing through building rooms or corridors.

(4) Waste Processing Systems. Facilities shall provide sanitary storage and treatment areas for the disposal of all categories of waste, including hazardous and infectious wastes using techniques acceptable to the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, and the local health department having jurisdiction.
(5) Windows, in rooms intended for 24-hour occupancy, shall open to the building exterior or to a court which is open to the sky.

(a) Windows shall be equipped with insect screens.

(b) Operation of windows shall be restricted to a maximum opening of six inches to prevent escape or suicide.

(c) Window opening shall be restricted regardless of the method of operation or the use of tools or keys.

(6) Trash chutes, laundry chutes, dumb waiters, elevator shafts, and other similar systems shall not pump contaminated air into clean areas.

(7) All public and patient toilet and bath areas must have grab bars. Grab bar sizes and configurations shall comply with ADAAG.

(8) Each patient handwashing fixture shall have a mirror. Patient toilet and bath rooms that are required to be accessible to persons utilizing wheel chairs shall have mirrors installed in accordance with ADAAG.

(9) Showers and tubs shall contain recessed soap dishes.

(10) Cubicle curtains and draperies shall be affixed to permanently mounted tracks or rods. Portable curtains or visual barriers are not permitted.

(11) Floors and bases of kitchens, toilet rooms, bath rooms, janitor's closets and soiled workrooms shall be homogenous and shall be coved. Other areas subject to frequent wet cleaning shall have coved bases that are sealed to the floor.

(12) Acoustical treatment for sound control shall be provided in areas where sound control is needed, including corridors in patient areas, nurse stations, dayrooms, recreation rooms, dining areas, and waiting areas.

(13) Carpet.

Carpet in institutional occupancy patient areas, except public lobbies and offices, shall be treated to meet the following microbial resistance ratings as tested in accordance with test methods of the American Association of Textiles, Chemists, and Colorists (AATCC):

(a) Rating: minimum 90% bacterial reduction, test method: AATCC 100.


(d) Resilient backed carpet may be used in lieu of anti-microbial carpet.
(e) Carpet and padding shall be stretched taut and be free of loose edges to prevent tripping.

(14) Signs shall be provided as follows:

(a) General and circulation direction signs in corridors;

(b) Identification on or by the side of each door; and

(c) Emergency evacuation directional signs.

(15) Elevators.

Elevators intended for patient transport shall accommodate a gurney with attendant and have minimum inside cab dimensions of 5'8" wide by 8'5" deep and a minimum clear door width of 3'8".

(16) All rooms and occupied areas in the facility shall have provisions for ventilation. Natural window ventilation may be used for ventilation of nonsensitive areas and patient rooms when weather conditions permit, but mechanical ventilation shall be provided during periods of temperature extremes.

(a) Bottoms of ventilation openings shall be located at least three inches, above the floor.

(b) Supply and return systems shall be in ducts. Common returns using corridors or attic spaces as plenums are prohibited.

(17) In facilities other than general hospitals, specialty hospitals, and nursing care facilities, hot water recirculation is not required if the linear distance along the supply pipe from the water heater to the fixture does not exceed 50 feet.

(18) Medical gas and air system outlets shall be provided as outlined in Table 7.5 of the Guidelines.

(c) Bed pan washing devices may be deleted from inpatient toilet rooms where a soiled utility room is within the unit which includes bed pan washing capability.

(19) Building sewers shall discharge into a community sewer system. If a system is not available, the facility shall treat its sewage in accordance with local requirements and Utah Department of Environmental Quality requirements.

(20) Dishwashers, disposers and appliances shall be National Sanitation Foundation, NSF, approved and shall have the NSF seal affixed.

(21) Electrical materials shall be listed as complying with standards of Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. or other equivalent nationally recognized standards.

(a) Approaches to buildings and all spaces within the buildings occupied by people, machinery, or equipment shall have fixtures for lighting in accordance with at least
mid range requirements shown in Tables 1A and 1B of the Guidelines in 29-95, Lighting for Health Facilities, by the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America.

(b) Parking lots shall have fixtures for lighting to provide light levels as recommended in IESNA Lighting for Parking Facilities (RP-20-1998).

(c) Receptacles and receptacle cover plates on the electrical emergency system shall be red.

(d) The activating device for nurse call stations shall be of a contrasting color to the adjacent floor and wall surfaces to make it easily visible in an emergency.

(e) Fuel storage capacity of the emergency generator shall permit continuous operation of the facility for 48 hours.

(f) Building electrical services connected to the emergency electrical source must comply with the specific rules for each licensure category.


Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospital and Health Care Facilities 2001 edition, Section 7 and Appendix A (Guidelines), are incorporated and adopted by reference and shall be met except as modified in this section. Where a modification is cited, the modification supersedes conflicting requirements of the Guidelines.

(1) Hospitals must have at least one nursing unit of at least six beds containing patient rooms, patient care spaces, and service areas.

(a) When more than one nursing unit shares spaces and service areas, as permitted in this rule, the service areas shall be contiguous to each nursing unit served.

(b) Identifiable spaces shall be provided for each of the required services.

(i) When used in this rule, "room or office" describes a specific, separate, enclosed space for the service.

(ii) When "room or office" is not used, multiple services may be accommodated in one enclosed space.

(c) Facility services shall be accessible from common areas without compromising patient privacy.

(2) Patient room area is identified in each individual construction rule for the licensure category rule.

(a) The closets in each patient room shall be a minimum of 22 inches deep by at least 22 inches wide and high enough to hang full length garments and to accommodate two storage shelves.
(b) Pediatric units must have at least one tub room with a bathtub, toilet and sink convenient to the unit. The tub room may be omitted if all patient rooms contain a tub in the toilet room.

(3) A "Continuing Care Nursery" must have one oxygen, one medical air and one vacuum per bassinet.

(4) Appendix A7.2.A1 of the Guidelines, single patient room occupancy, applies to new construction only.

(5) Provisions for an isolation room for infectious patients in Phase II recovery, as discussed in 7.7.C14 of the Guidelines, is deleted.

(6) Postpartum rooms, in new construction, shall be single patient rooms.

(7) The facility must provide linen services as follows:

(a) Processing laundry may be done within the facility, in a separate building on or off site, or in a commercial or shared laundry.

(b) If laundry is processed by an outside commercial laundry, the following shall be provided:

(i) a separate room for receiving and holding soiled linen until ready for transport;

(ii) a central, clean linen storage and issuing room(s) to accommodate linen storage for four days operation or two normal deliveries, whichever is greater; and

(iii) handwashing facilities in each area where unbagged, soiled linen is handled.

(c) If the facility processes its own laundry, within the facility or in a separate building, the following shall be provided:

(i) a receiving, holding, and sorting room for control and distribution of soiled linen;

(ii) a washing room with handwashing facilities and commercial equipment that can process a seven day accumulation of laundry within a regularly scheduled work week;

(iii) a drying room with dryers adequate for the quantity and type of laundry being processed; and

(iv) a clean linen storage room with space and shelving adequate to store one half of all linens and personal clothing being processed.

(d) Soiled linen chutes shall discharge directly into the receiving room or in a room separated from the washing room, drying room and clean linen storage.

(e) Prewash facilities may be provided in the receiving, holding and sorting rooms.
(f) If laundry is processed by the facility, either a two or three room configuration may be used as follows;

(i) A two room configuration shall consist of the following:

(A) a room housing soiled linen receiving, sorting, holding, and prewash facilities; washers; and handwashing facilities; and

(B) a room housing dryers; clean linen folding, sorting, and storage facilities; and handwashing facilities.

(ii) A three room configuration shall consist of:

(A) a soiled linen receiving, sorting, holding room with prewash and handwashing facilities;

(B) a combination washer and dryer room arranged so linen flows from the soiled receiving area to the washers, to the dryers, and then to clean storage; and

(C) a clean storage room with folding, sorting, storage and handwashing facilities.

(iii) Physical separation shall be maintained between rooms by means of self closing doors.

(iv) Air movements shall be from the clean area to the soiled area. Air from the soiled area shall be exhausted directly to the outside.

(g) Handwashing sinks shall be provided and located within the laundry areas to maintain the functional separation of the clean and soiled processes.

(h) Rooms shall be arranged to prevent the transport of soiled laundry through clean areas and the transport of clean laundry through soiled areas.

(i) Convenient access to employee lockers and lounges shall be provided.

(j) Storage for laundry supplies shall be provided.

(k) A cart storage area for separate parking of clean and soiled linen carts shall be provided out of normal traffic paths.

R432-4-25. Excluded Sections of the Guidelines.

The Linen Services section 7.23 of the Guidelines does not apply.

R432-4-26. Penalties.

The Department may assess a civil money penalty of up to $5,000 and deny approval for patient utilization of new or remodeled areas if a health care provider does not submit architectural drawings to the Bureau of Licensing. The Department
may assess a civil money penalty of up to $5,000 if the licensee fails to follow Department-approved architectural plans. The Department may assess a civil money penalty of up to $500 per day for each day a new or renovated area is occupied prior to Bureau of licensing approval.

KEY

health facilities

Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment

December 10, 2002

Notice of Continuation

January 5, 2004

Authorizing, Implemented, or Interpreted Law

26-21-5; 26-21-16

Rule converted into HTML by the Division of Administrative Rules.

For questions regarding the content or application of rules under Title R432, please contact the promulgating agency (Health, Health Systems Improvement, Licensing). A list of agencies with links to their homepages is available at http://www.utah.gov/government/agencylist.html.

For questions about the rulemaking process, please contact the Division of Administrative Rules. Please Note: The Division of Administrative Rules is not able to answer questions about the content or application of these rules.

The HTML version of this rule is a convenience copy. This information is made available on the Internet as a public service. Please see this disclaimer about information available from www.rules.utah.gov.