August 4, 2014

Q: Are wireless call systems allowed under the Illinois physical plant requirements?

A: Section 300.2940(g) (New) and 300.3140(e) (Existing) – Electrical Systems (see attached) currently require hard-wired nurse call systems. Wireless call systems can be used as a supplemental nurse call system, but the nursing facility must still have a hard-wired system that registers at the nurse’s/central station. IDPH has recently agreed to discussions with IHCA in order to discuss the many outdated physical plant requirements and what needs to be revised/changed to address the federal CMS intent to upgrade to the 2012 Life Safety Code.