May 29, 2017

Q: Are shower curtains in Illinois long term care facilities required to be fire retardant?

A: Shower curtains are exempt from flame propagation performance criteria due to the fact that LTC facilities are required to be fully sprinklered. The LSC section that deals with this issue is:

**19.7.5 Furnishings, Mattresses, and Decorations.**

**19.7.5.1** Draperies, curtains, and other loosely hanging fabrics and films serving as furnishings or decorations in health care occupancies shall be in accordance with the provisions of 10.3.1 (see 19.3.5.11), and the following also shall apply:

1. Such curtains shall include cubicle curtains.
2. Such curtains shall not include curtains at showers and baths.
3. Such draperies and curtains shall not include draperies and curtains at windows in patient sleeping rooms in smoke compartments sprinklered in accordance with 19.3.5.
4. Such draperies and curtains shall not include draperies and curtains in other rooms or areas where the draperies and curtains comply with all of the following:
   a. Individual drapery or curtain panel area does not exceed 48 ft² (4.5 m²).
   b. Total area of drapery and curtain panels per room or area does not exceed 20 percent of the aggregate area of the wall on which they are located.
   c. Smoke compartment in which draperies or curtains are located is sprinklered in accordance with 19.3.5.