
FIRE FACT NO. 004 CHECKLIST(s) :
TITLE : OWNER/OPERATOR LIFE SAFETY RESPONSIBILITY
CHECKLIST ITEM(s) :
REFERENCE(s) :
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Facility owners and operators have the ultimate legal responsibility for the safety of any occupant within their facility. This responsibility cannot be transferred to any code authority, whether local or state.

The owner/operator has this responsibility:

- regardless of whether or not any inspections have been performed by any authority, whether local or state.
- regardless of whether or not a plan of correction has been accepted by any authority, whether local or state.
- regardless of whether or not any plan review has been done by any authority, whether local or state.

The Kansas State Fire Marshal's role is to provide life safety oversight. For certain types of facilities, this role is mandated by state law. The KSFM provides a risk management service. We help facility owners and operators lower their potential risk from incidents that could endanger the occupants of their facilities. We cannot provide design services to the owner/operator, and we cannot do anything to defer liability away from the owner/operator. The KSFM identifies unacceptable life safety issues in existing facilities and we communicate these issues to the owner/operator. It is the job of the owner/operator to provide appropriate solutions. We can provide general guidance on how issues may be addressed, but no more.

New facilities must comply with all applicable codes and guidelines. Life Safety problems in new facilities are unacceptable.

Facility owners and operators are responsible for maintaining all documentation concerning their facility. They must maintain correspondence that relates to acceptance of non-conforming conditions and plan approval. This documentation may be requested by inspectors at later on-site visits. Code footprints are the best way to document approval for non-conforming conditions and to document the code status of a facility.

