

6 Facility Checks Surveyors Ask For First

Whether it's a state surveyor, an accreditor, the fire marshal or OSHA, the building part of a visit usually starts with the same records. For each one: what they ask to see, how often it's due, and where the requirement comes from.

01

Fire extinguisher inspections

THEY ASK FOR

Monthly checks initialed for every extinguisher, and the yearly service by a certified technician.

HOW OFTEN

Every month, plus once a year. OSHA says keep the annual record for a year.

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.157(e) • NFPA 10

02

Fire alarm and sprinkler testing

THEY ASK FOR

Your contractors' inspection and test reports, and proof that what they flagged was fixed. Sprinkler testing (K353) is among the most-cited Life Safety Code findings in CMS surveys.

HOW OFTEN

On your contractor's schedule; at least yearly for most systems.

NFPA 72 • NFPA 25

03

Emergency lighting and exit signs

THEY ASK FOR

A written record of each monthly test, and of the annual long test.

HOW OFTEN

Every month, 30 seconds per battery unit; once a year, 90 minutes.

NFPA 101 §7.9.3

04

Generator testing, if you have one

THEY ASK FOR

The weekly inspection log and the monthly load-test log. Generator testing (K918) is another of the most-cited findings at CMS-certified sites.

HOW OFTEN

Inspect weekly; run under load for at least 30 minutes monthly.

NFPA 110

05

Fire drills and the emergency plan

THEY ASK FOR

Drill records with date, time, shift and who took part, and a written emergency plan staff know.

HOW OFTEN

Surgery centers, and dialysis clinics under the Life Safety Code: every quarter on each shift. Where OSHA requires an emergency action plan, it must be written once you have more than 10 employees.

NFPA 101 (ambulatory health care) • OSHA 29 CFR 1910.38

06

Eyewash stations and chemicals

THEY ASK FOR

The eyewash flush log, and safety data sheets for every chemical on site, where staff can reach them.

HOW OFTEN

Plumbed eyewash units activated weekly; data sheets kept current.

ANSI/ISEA Z358.1 • OSHA 29 CFR 1910.151(c), 1910.1200

And the question that follows all six: when a check failed, what happened next? Keep the fix, its date and who checked it with the record.

All six, on one dashboard. FacilityRounds schedules these checks per building, shows what's due and overdue, and locks each record when it's done, so the answer to "show me" is one click. Free for one building at [facilityrounds.com](https://www.facilityrounds.com).

General guidance, not legal advice. What applies to you depends on your state, building, accreditor and the code editions your inspectors enforce; CMS applies the 2012 editions of NFPA 101 and NFPA 99. © 2026 KnightWorks Consulting, Inc. Free to copy and use.