

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
BUREAU OF HUMAN SERVICES LICENSING
Child Residential and Day Treatment Facilities (55 Pa.Code Chapter 3800)

Q/A - Regulatory Clarifications – April 2016

The clarifications and interpretations below will remain on the Department's web site until the information is included in the next updated Regulatory Compliance Guide (RCG).

Regulation: § 3800.92 – Screens

§ 3800.92 - Windows, including windows in doors, shall be securely screened when doors or windows are open.

Question: Do operable windows need screens even when closed?

ANSWER: Yes; windows need screens if they are able to be opened.

Regulation: § 3800.130(e) - Smoke Detectors and Fire Alarms

§ 3800.130(e) - If the facility serves four or more children or if the facility has three or more stories including the basement and attic, there shall be at least one smoke detector on each floor interconnected and audible throughout the facility or an automatic fire alarm system that is audible throughout the facility.

Question: Do wireless fire systems still meet the regulation in terms of being "interconnected"?

ANSWER: Yes, as long as the wireless fire system communicates with the other fire devices in the facility.

As a reminder, smoke detectors and fire alarms shall be of a type approved by the Department of Labor and Industry or listed by Underwriters Laboratories.

Regulation: § 3800.132(a) - Fire Drills

§ 3800.132(a) - An unannounced fire drill shall be held at least once a month.

Question: Is a fire drill considered unannounced if a staff member who sets off the alarm also participates in the drill? Is a drill also considered

unannounced if an administrator calls an employee at an unpredictable time and instructs them to set off the fire alarm and evacuate the children?

ANSWER: In both situations the fire drill is considered to be unannounced. For more information about fire drills and evacuation, please see the CRL RCG.