



MoHFW 2026 — Fire Safety in Hospitals: The Mandate

FOR HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATIONS · FIRE SAFETY OFFICERS · CONSULTANTS — FIREX COMPLIANCE BRIEF 05-2

Fire safety in every hospital is now a written national mandate.

National Guidelines on Fire & Life Safety in Healthcare Facilities (2026) · DM Cell, MoHFW, Government of India · Released 04.05.2026 · PIB Release ID 2257800 · NBC 2016 · NEC 2023 (SP-30) · CEA 2023

WHY THIS MANDATE EXISTS



Rodents reach the ward.
A rat inside a hospital NICU. Staff confirmed the animal had been in the unit for days.



The ICU afterwards.
SMS Hospital, Jaipur. Six patients died in the ICU fire.



And from outside.
Dindigul, Tamil Nadu. A private hospital ablaze; six lives lost, a child among them.

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1 THE NOTIFICATION — ON WHOM, FROM WHEN

WHAT — The Government’s national fire-safety rulebook for hospitals. Replaces the 2020 version. NBC 2016 & State Fire Acts: compulsory. A valid Fire Safety Certificate: compulsory (§7.2).

ON WHOM — Every hospital and nursing home in India — government & private, old & new.

FROM WHEN — 04.05.2026. Fire Safety Committee & Fire Safety Officer: now. Fire-risk check: every 3 months. Full fire + electrical audit: every year. Fire Hazard Register + audit & corrective-action records — open to regulators and NABH (§3.1, §5.5).

VERBATIM FROM THE GUIDELINE · §4.2, P.25

“Penetration sealing helps maintain fire compartmentation by blocking fire and smoke spread”

2 THE MANDATE → STANVAC SOLUTION

MANDATE — AS PER NOTIFICATION (§ / PAGE)	STANVAC SOLUTION
1 · Electrical installation Annex A4 p.53 · §4.1.3 p.23–24 · CEA 2023 Wiring must not spread fire — and safety circuits must keep working during a fire. Hospitals are BD4, the highest-risk building class (IS 732). Extra care in ICUs, NICUs, OTs.	FIREX EC 43 Survival — safety circuits stay live through fire — IEC 60331-21 (240 min @ 750°C) · IS 17505-1 · CBRI FIREX EC 43 General — large cables — no flame spread — IEC 60332-3 · 240 min FIREX EC 7034 — small dia & panel wiring — anti-rodent · see-through · no flame spread · CBRI 120-min · Cat A
2 · The audit at every cable crossing Annex 1, A3.1(2) p.50 Mandatory inspection (IS 732 cl. 4.3): every opening where cables cross walls, floors and shafts must be checked — and where sealed, the make, type, manufacturer’s test report and installation method must be recorded.	FIREX FM-71 + FB 250 — seals every crossing — 2 h at the wall
3 · Existing wiring — what the notification orders §4.1.3 p.23 · Annex 1 A3 · IS 732 (BD4) HFFR — Halogen Free & Flame Retardant — is the class the guideline names; installation “may comply” NEC 2023 (§4.1.3). For wiring in place: “special care...” (for protection from electric shock and electrical fire) (§4.1.3); “precautions against propagation of fire”, inspections “mandatory for all locations” (Annex 1 A3 · IS 732 cl 4.3). Duty: no propagation · special care · recorded sealing — not replacement.	FIREX EC 43 coated PVC cable releases no toxic gases — halogen included — Toxicity Index 1.349 · NES-713 · NCD-1409 · CBRI FIREX EC 43 Survival — safety circuits alive in fire — IEC 60331-21 (240 min @ 750°C) · IS 17505-1 FIREX EC 43 General — no flame spread, large cables — IEC 60332-3 · 240 min FIREX EC 7034 — small dia & panel wiring · see-through · CBRI 120-min · Cat A · anti-rodent — rated SAFE under RDSO/SPN/204. In shafts and false ceilings the bite that strips insulation never happens — and no ward is shut down to rewire.
4 · Compartmentation — the design duty §4.2 p.24–25 Every floor divided into fire-proof compartments; every shaft sealed at every floor. Patients are moved sideways into the next compartment — this works only if the compartments hold.	FIREX FM-71 + FB 250 — wall & floor openings — 2 hours · every shaft, sealed at every floor
5 · Non-combustible surfaces §4.1.1 p.23 The structure, finishes and false ceilings must not burn or carry fire. Binds new construction; existing buildings on alteration or if the Authority declares a hazard.	STANVAC CS 70 — clear intumescent — where looks matter: wood & exposed surfaces protected without hiding the finish FIREX DC 52 — where a coloured coating is wanted — the surface stops being fuel

3 LEGAL CONSEQUENCES — WHAT HAPPENS, WHO ANSWERS

WHAT HAPPENS	WHO ANSWERS
Fire Safety Certificate cancelled — the building can be sealed (State Fire Acts).	The hospital
A death in a fire: jail up to 5 years — BNS 2023 §106. Putting lives in danger — §125.	Owners · trustees · MS / CEO — personally
Every audit is now on record (Fire Hazard Register + audit file). A fault found but not fixed = proof of negligence.	Whoever knew and did not act
NABH suspended. Cashless insurance tie-ups stop. Fire insurance claim rejected.	The hospital’s income
Consumer courts order compensation to victims’ families.	The hospital pays

Precedent: AMRI Kolkata, 2011 — 90+ deaths. Directors arrested and prosecuted.

After 04.05.2026, no hospital can say “we did not know.”

The mandate is in writing — and so is every fault you were told about.

4 WHO TO MEET

- Fire Safety Officer** — walk the shafts, panels, openings with him
- Fire Safety Committee** — put our fix on their agenda
- MS / CEO** — holds the budget — “Accountable” in the guideline’s own chart
- Chief Engineer** — puts us in the BOQ and executes
- New buildings** — the MEP / fire consultant

PCO — Panels · Cables · Openings · one survey · one specification · one accountable partner

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