

COMMERCIAL DAY CARE REGULATIONS

SCOPE: A Commercial Day Care provides care for less than 24 hours a day for more than 12 children. Any day care not in a home setting is also classified as a commercial day care. The ages and number of children and required staffing is detailed in Title 55 Pennsylvania Code. A commercial day care will be classified as either Educational Use (Group E) or Institutional Use (Group I-4). Group I-4 is more restrictive as these day cares are occupied by more than five (5) infants or toddlers.

1. Heating System Inspection
 - oil burners checked every year and documented
 - gas-fired heaters checked at least every 2 years and documented
 - all other heating units at manufacturer approved intervals
 - no portable heaters unless approved by Fire Marshal
2. Exit Maintenance
 - all doors must operate properly
 - all child care area windows must operate as designed
 - all escape paths must be clear and available for escape
3. Fire Alarms and Sprinklers
 - all systems must be maintained, tested per Code and a copy of test records available for the Fire Marshal
 - pull station system usually required for 50 occupancy and above
 - more than 5 children under age 2½ requires fire sprinklers unless each classroom has a direct exit at grade level and there are no more than 100 children
 - I-4 buildings require a fire alarm system with smoke detection
4. Fire Extinguishers
 - class 10B or 10BC for the kitchen unless a commercial appliance is installed
 - commercial cooking appliances require an automatic suppression system and a compatible fire extinguisher
 - 2A 10BC for any floor used by children
 - must be visible and accessible
5. General Fire Safety
 - keep matches and lighters safely stored
 - cooking must be attended at all times
 - no smoking
 - no flammable liquids in the basement, strictly limit storage elsewhere
6. Fire Safety and Fire Evacuation Plans
 - a detailed Fire Safety plan and Fire Evacuation plan is required
7. Emergency Lighting and Exit Signs
 - required in all buildings unless an approved single exit building

8. Emergency Evacuation Drills

- drills to be held monthly or per your approved plan
- an up-to-date fire drill log must be kept on the premises
- drills to be held at various times and during various activities
- hypothetical fire locations to change
- assemble at a safe area away from Fire Department operations
- for facilities that begin a new term after being off for the summer, a drill is required within the first 10 days of the school year
- Group I-4 day cares require staff evacuation drills quarterly