



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

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FIRE CODE ISSUE IN DAY CARE OCCUPANCIES

The State of NH (RSA 153:5) adopts the State Fire Code, Saf-C 6000, and references national codes to develop a set of requirements for the fire safety in each type of occupancy.

CHILD DAY CARE STAFF TO CLIENT RATIOS

The State of NH Childcare Licensing Bureau has requested that this office review the staff to client ratios that are enforceable in NH.

The NFPA 101 Life Safety Code 2000 edition has references in the appendix for these ratios. The NH Child Care Licensing Rules, He-C 4002 has a specific listing for ratios as well. The He-C 4002 is the legally enforceable rule for childcare ratios in NH. Listed below is a summary of the ratios referenced in the rules:

Staff to Client Ratio	Age (months)
1:4	0-12
1:5	13-24
1:6	25-35
1:8	36-47
1:12	48-59
1:15	60 & over

NFPA 101 requires an emergency egress and relocation drill (fire drill) be conducted once a month while school is in session, with one drill held within the first 30 days of school. The NH State Fire Code amends this to allow the drills to be suspended during the winter months after at least four drills have been held. In addition, no more than two of the fire drills can be replaced by drills that test emergency response to other hazards when the local fire department and emergency management are involved in the planning. In addition, it is required that all occupants participate in the drill. This includes not only all the students, but office and kitchen staff as well as administration. (101:16/17.7.1, Saf-C 6008.04) Written records of the drills shall be maintained on the premises.