

TITLE: CALL-FOR-AID SYSTEM
VERSION: V3.0
DATE PUBLISHED: 06/20/23

DEFINITION: A call system used by a resident to summon aid during a medical emergency.

PURPOSE: Provides the resident with a means to alert emergency service.

COMMON COMPONENTS: Annunciator; Pull cord; Speaker; Lights; Alarm; Faceplate

LOCATION: Unit Bathroom, bedroom, hallway
 Inside Common area, including bathroom and hallway
 Outside None

MORE INFORMATION: For the purposes of this inspection, personal “wireless call-for-aid systems” typically worn around a resident’s neck are not to be inspected.

DEFICIENCY 1: System is blocked, or pull cord is higher than 6 inches off the floor.

LOCATION: Unit Inside

DEFICIENCY 2: System does not function properly.

LOCATION: Unit Inside

DEFICIENCY I — UNIT: SYSTEM IS BLOCKED, OR PULL CORD IS HIGHER THAN 6 INCHES OFF THE FLOOR.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA: System is blocked.
OR
Pull cord end is higher than 6 inches off the floor.

HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION: Life-Threatening The Life-Threatening category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of death to resident.

CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 24 hours

HCV PASS / FAIL: Fail

HCV — CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 24 hours

INSPECTION PROCESS:

OBSERVATION:

- Look for a call-for-aid system along the walls.
- Look to see if a cord is present if required; not all call-for-aid systems will have a cord, some may have a button.
- Look at the call-for-aid system and visually inspect for any obstruction that would prevent a resident from accessing the system (e.g., furniture and equipment, clothes, plants, etc.).

REQUEST FOR HELP: - None

ACTION:

- If a cord is present, measure the distance between the end of the pull cord and the floor to determine if it is greater than 6 inches

More Information:

- If the call-for-aid system is a button-only device, then do not record a deficiency for a pull cord end that is higher than 6 inches off the floor.

DEFICIENCY 1 — INSIDE: SYSTEM IS BLOCKED, OR PULL CORD IS HIGHER THAN 6 INCHES OFF THE FLOOR.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA: System is blocked.
 OR
 Pull cord end is higher than 6 inches off the floor.

HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION: Life-Threatening The Life-Threatening category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of death to resident.

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 - Look at the call-for-aid system and visually inspect for any obstruction that would prevent a resident from accessing the system (e.g., furniture and equipment, clothes, plants, etc.).
- REQUEST FOR HELP:** - None
- ACTION:**
- If a cord is present, measure the distance between the end of the pull cord and the floor to determine if it is greater than 6 inches
- More Information:**
- If the call-for-aid system is a button-only device, then do not record a deficiency for a pull cord end that is higher than 6 inches off the floor.

DEFICIENCY 2 — UNIT: SYSTEM DOES NOT FUNCTION PROPERLY.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA: A call-for-aid system does not emit sound or light or send a signal to the annunciator.
 OR
 The annunciator does not indicate the correct corresponding room.
 OR
 Pull cord is missing.
 OR
 Pull cord is tied up such that it cannot be engaged.

HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION: Life-Threatening The Life-Threatening category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of death to resident.

CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 24 hours

HCV PASS / FAIL Fail

HCV — CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 24 hours

INSPECTION PROCESS:

- OBSERVATION:
- Look for a call-for-aid system along the walls.
 - Look to verify that a cord is present, if so designed.
 - Listen to verify that the system emits an audible alarm, if so designed.
 - Verify the system emits a visual alarm, if so designed.
- REQUEST FOR HELP:
- Ask the POA if the call-for-aid system is monitored onsite or offsite.
 - If monitored offsite, do not test functionality of the system.
 - Ask the POA to station a staff person with a cellphone or two-way radio at the annunciator panel to standby for the alarm to activate and to contact the POA once the alarm activates.
- ACTION:
- Pull the pull cord from its lowest hanging point.
 - Verify that the system emits a visual alarm, such as a flashing light, and alerts at the annunciator panel.
- MORE INFORMATION:
- If the property has third-party documentation of a call-for-aid inspection, then the inspector does not need to test call-for-aid stations. Instead, the inspector should:
 - Verify that the documentation addresses all parts of the call-for-aid system.
 - Verify that the third-party documentation is dated within the last 12 months of the inspection date.
 - If the call-for-aid system is abandoned:
 - Do not evaluate call-for-aid systems if all pull stations have been removed and all that remains are the indicator lights, audible indicators, or annunciator panel.
 - The primary consideration is that no part of the user interface remains.
 - If the call-for-aid system is a button-only device, then do not record a deficiency for a missing pull cord.

DEFICIENCY 2 — INSIDE: SYSTEM DOES NOT FUNCTION PROPERLY.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA: A call-for-aid system does not emit sound or light or send a signal to the annunciator.
 OR
 The annunciator does not indicate the correct corresponding room.
 OR
 Pull cord is missing.
 OR
 Pull cord is tied up such that it cannot be engaged.

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