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**D R A F T**

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**To:** Community Based Residential Facilities (CBRF) CBRF XX

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**Construction Requirements for New ‘Class-C’ CBRF structures**

The Department is providing this position statement regarding the physical plant requirements associated with the licensure for new CBRF structures as related to the application of the Wisconsin Commercial Building Code (WCBC). Community Based Residential Care Facilities (CBRF) are licensed per the requirements found in administrative code HFS 83 and commercial structures are designed per the requirements found in the WCBC.

**HFS 83.05** defines a ‘Class-C’ CBRF to admit residents who are not mentally or physically capable of responding to an electronic fire alarm and exiting the facility without help or verbal or physical prompting.

The WCBC adopts and modifies the International Building Code (IBC). Chapter 3 of the IBC controls the classification of commercial buildings in relation to use and occupancy. Depending on the number of people being cared for and the extent of their physical condition, CBRF’s will typically be classified I-2, I-1, R-4 or R-3. In addition, a small CBRF serving 3 to 8 persons can be constructed to the Uniform Dwelling Code (Comm 20-25).

To eliminate confusion regarding new CBRF's structures of commercial size (9 or more beds) seeking licensure as a Class-C facility the following position applies:

**Position:** 'Class-C' CBRF's of commercial size (9 or more beds) seeking licensure within a new structure must have been approved as an IBC Group 'I-2'. New structures approved as other than an IBC Group 'I-2' will be considered for licensure if provided smoke barriers per IBC Section 709 are installed at no more than 150 feet of corridor per HFS 83.65 (6)(b).