



Dear Dental Offices,

Premier Dental Anesthesiology (PDA) has recently discovered newly published regulations which may impact the delivery of anesthesia in your office. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recently published the 2018 NFPA 99 guidelines. Included in these guidelines is a new chapter (ch.15) specifically addressing anesthesia delivery in dental offices. Basically, the chapter is divided into two areas- supply of medical gases to anesthesia machines and waste anesthesia gas disposal (WAGD). The new guidelines appear to have been added as the delivery of anesthesia in dental offices has been increasing in recent years.

The guidelines related to delivery systems for medical gas supply will not have any impact on PDA's current systems. These guidelines appear to be designed for the use of standard anesthesia machines which require medical grade supply systems. Our portable machines are run from e cylinders mounted under the machine and as such are self sufficient. We do not need to access oxygen, air, or nitrous oxide from the dental supply systems installed in your office.

The guidelines addressing waste anesthesia gas disposal (WAGD) may need to be addressed depending on your office situation and location. These guidelines outline a system specifically designed to suction anesthesia waste gases away from the anesthesia machine which is separate and distinct from your dental suction. Serving over 27,000 patients over the last decade, PDA has safely utilized the dental suction to scavenge anesthesia gases out of the dental building. We believe this practice continues to be safe using our portable anesthesia machines. The NFPA has fire safety concerns regarding oxygen concentrations and certain types of suction pumps. In general, oil lubricated suction pumps present the highest risk of pump fire and water seal liquid ring pumps the lowest risk.

We have currently reviewed the dental sedation rules for Missouri and Illinois and have not found these guidelines referenced in the documents. After further review and consultation with local fire officials, these guidelines will be adopted into local fire/municipal codes and the authority having jurisdiction will be your local fire Marshall.

There is a specific section of the NFPA 99 guidelines pertaining to existing facilities and compliance. Section 15.1.5 states:

“An existing system that is not in strict compliance with the requirements of this code shall be permitted to continue in use as long as the authority having jurisdiction has determined that such use does not constitute a distinct hazard to life.”



In my discussions with local fire officials, existing faculties may not be held to the new guidelines if the local fire Marshall deems the practice safe. However, anyone remodeling or building new facilities providing anesthesia services will most likely be held to the new guidelines.

Please visit our website www.premierdentalanesthesiology.net – hover over “dentist information” – and click on “NFPA Code 99” to view more information referenced immediately below:

1. Anesthesia Patient Safety Newsletter from June 2018 is a concise description of the new regulations and their potential impact (page 17).
2. NFPA 99 guidelines
3. WAGD systems document which reviews what makes a suction pump suitable for use with WAGD systems (page 11).

Please contact me directly to further discuss how this may impact your practice. We look forward to continuing our service to you and your patients.

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