

South Carolina Department of Disabilities & Special Needs State Fire Marshal Annual Inspection Requirements

South Carolina State Fire Marshal Remote Video Inspections

Effective July 1, 2020, the SC State Fire Marshal's Office will implement a new procedure for conducting Remote Video Inspections (RVI) in place of the traditional on-site inspections. The procedures, established by the State Fire Marshal's Office, have been outlined below:

- A. Intent: RVI is not intended to be less complete than an on-site inspection. RVI should be utilized to achieve the same (or enhanced) results as an on-site inspection. An RVI is considered a physical inspection, for all intents and purposes.

Scheduling, the inspection, and documenting shall mirror the regular inspection process.

B. Video Calling Applications

1. FaceTime
2. Google Duo
3. Skype

C. Applicability: DDSN – SLP II, CTHI and CTH II (Annual Inspections and Follow-up Re-inspection)

D. Exclusion

- a. Initial Licensing Inspections.
- b. Health & Sanitation Inspections.
- c. Inadequate internet/cell service.
- d. Failure of the homeowner/facility representative to show you an area or follow directions.

- E. Process limitations: The camera must be operated at the direction of the Deputy State Fire Marshal (DSFM) to perform a thorough inspection. This will help ensure that all aspects of the work are observed to the satisfaction of the DSFM. As with any inspection, the DSFM maintains the right to request that conditions for the inspection be reasonable. In the case of an RVI, if the Internet connection, lighting, picture quality, access, or other conditions are not conducive to a reliable inspection, it may be rescheduled or changed to an on-site inspection. The RVI may be called off due to the quality of the work and too many violations identified.

- F. Documentation: All RVI reports shall have the applicable "RVI" selected as the activity cause.

To request a State Fire Marshal Inspection, providers will follow the same process on the LLR/State Fire Inspection Request Portal. Please keep in mind that inspections are coordinated 2 to 4 weeks in advance. An inspection request must be received no later than 11:59 PM the 15th of the month in order for the inspection to take place the following month. As an example, the request must be submitted by July 15 for an inspection to be scheduled in August.

Requests for a new inspection should be coordinated through DDSN Quality Management by emailing license@ddsn.sc.gov.

Please note: Providers are expected to complete corrective actions for all citations listed on the Fire Marshal's Inspection Report. Failure to complete timely corrective action may result in citations during the annual licensing review.