READY TO INSPECT — STANDARD FIELD GUIDE

NFPA 101

National Fire Protection Association

NFPA 101, the Life Safety Code, addresses how people get out of a building. It covers the width and capacity of the egress path, the signs and lighting that make it usable in the dark, and the rated separations that hold a fire back long enough for the path to work. On a walk the field role is to observe and document what is in place; the authority having jurisdiction is who enforces the code.

What it covers

- Egress capacity, width and travel to an exit
- Exit signage and directional marking along the path
- Emergency and egress-path lighting
- Fire-rated separations and protected corridors
- Occupancy-based egress provisions

What a field inspection looks at

- Exit signs photographed at each decision point along the path, illuminated and legible in frame.
- Egress width shown clear at the doors and corridors, not obstructed by stored material.
- Emergency lighting documented as observed, with fixtures shown covering the path.
- Rated corridor and stair separations photographed intact where the drawings call for them.
- Findings written as observed and documented, with enforcement left to the AHJ.

Adoption varies by jurisdiction. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction enforces before you run a walk against it.