

DAYLIGHTING REQUIREMENT

1. ISSUE: New federal mandates update daylighting requirements for new construction and modernization projects.

2. BACKGROUND: Section 6.4.1 of the VA *Sustainable Design Manual* details requirements for daylighting in VA construction and renovation projects.

3. DISCUSSION: In 2016, the White House Council on Environmental Quality released the *Guiding Principles for Sustainable Federal Buildings and Associated Instructions*, herein referred to as the *Guiding Principles*. This document supersedes the *High Performance and Sustainable Buildings Guidance* published in 2008. The new *Guiding Principles* document provides updated daylighting requirements and necessitates modification of the VA *Sustainable Design Manual* requirements.

4. NEW STANDARD: All new construction, and modernization, projects of 5,000 square feet, or more, must “Maximize opportunities for daylighting in regularly occupied space, except where not appropriate because of building function, mission, or structural constraints.” Provide adequate documentation to demonstrate compliance with this requirement in all design phases.

This requirement replaces section 6.4.1 of the VA *Sustainable Design Manual*.

5. CONTACT: James Symanski Jr. P.E., Sustainable Design Program Manager, Office of Facilities Planning, Facilities Standards Service at james.symanski@va.gov

Sources:

[Guiding Principles for Sustainable Federal Buildings and Associated Instructions](#), Feb 2016.

[VA Sustainable Design Manual](#), May 2014.

ALERT