

CHAPTER 37
HOTEL AND MOTEL INSPECTIONS

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 3/11/31

481—37.1(137C) Building and grounds. Owners or managers are expected to keep hotels clean, meaning no litter nor accumulation of refuse anywhere on the premises. The floors, walls, and ceilings shall be kept clean and in good repair.

37.1(1) Screens, self-closing doors or other effective methods shall be used to keep flies, mosquitoes and other pests out of hotel lobbies, kitchens or any other indoor area.

37.1(2) All garbage must be kept in metal or plastic containers with tight-fitting lids and removed regularly to avoid offensive odors, a problem with insects or rodents, or health or fire hazards.

37.1(3) Any room or article that becomes infested with insects or vermin shall be cleaned or chemically treated until there are no more insects or vermin.

[ARC 0061D, IAB 2/4/26, effective 3/11/26]

481—37.2(137C) Guest rooms. Hotels built or extensively remodeled, as determined by the department, shall provide ventilation in guest rooms with windows or mechanical devices. The furniture, drapes and accessories shall be kept clean and in good repair.

[ARC 0061D, IAB 2/4/26, effective 3/11/26]

481—37.3(137C) Bedding. All materials used on a bed or any sleeping place shall be kept clean and in good repair.

37.3(1) There shall be an under sheet and top sheet that are large enough to cover the mattress for every bed. Pillows shall have pillow slips.

37.3(2) Each guest shall be furnished clean sheets and pillow slips.

37.3(3) All other bedding shall be aired between guests and kept clean.

[ARC 0061D, IAB 2/4/26, effective 3/11/26]

481—37.4(137C) Lavatory facilities. Hotels built or remodeled shall have lavatory facilities in each guest room, except for bed and breakfast inns.

37.4(1) Each guest room shall be equipped with hot and cold running water fixtures. The floors shall be nonabsorbent and impermeable so they can be washed with water.

37.4(2) Lavatory rooms shall be well-lighted and vented to the outside of the building, which may be done with electric units.

37.4(3) Each guest shall have a clean towel each day.

37.4(4) Bed and breakfast inns shall provide at least one restroom that is available to overnight guests that is equipped as provided in subrules 37.4(1) through 37.4(3).

[ARC 0061D, IAB 2/4/26, effective 3/11/26]

481—37.5(137C) Glasses and ice.

37.5(1) Each guest shall have clean glasses to use. All cups, glasses or utensils usable more than once shall be sanitized by:

a. A sanitizing solution used in accordance with the manufacturer's use instructions; or

b. A mechanical dishwasher that sanitizes and is operated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

37.5(2) Sanitizing temperature or solution concentration measuring devices are readily available to frequently measure sanitizing temperatures and sanitizing solution concentrations.

37.5(3) Ice kept for guests to use shall be protected from contamination with tight lids on ice machines or storage bins. Containers used to store ice shall be continuously drained and have no direct waste connection. Ice containers and utensils shall be designed so that the surfaces are made of a material that is safe for use as a food contact surface and so that the surface can be adequately cleaned.

[ARC 0061D, IAB 2/4/26, effective 3/11/26]

481—37.6 Reserved.

481—37.7(137C) Room rates. Room rates will be posted in accordance with Iowa Code chapter 137C.
[ARC 0061D, IAB 2/4/26, effective 3/11/26]

481—37.8(137C) Inspections. Hotels will be inspected in accordance with Iowa Code chapter 137C.
[ARC 0061D, IAB 2/4/26, effective 3/11/26]

481—37.9(137C) Enforcement. Violation of these rules or any provision of Iowa Code chapter 137C is a simple misdemeanor. The department may employ various remedies if violations are discovered, including suspension or revocation of licenses (Iowa Code section 137C.10) or injunction (Iowa Code section 137C.29).
[ARC 0061D, IAB 2/4/26, effective 3/11/26]

481—37.10(137C) Criminal offense—conviction of license holder.

37.10(1) The department may suspend or revoke the license of a license holder who conducts an activity constituting a criminal offense as set forth in Iowa Code section 137C.10(3).

37.10(2) A certified copy of the final order or judgment of conviction or plea of guilty is conclusive evidence of the conviction of the license holder.

[ARC 0061D, IAB 2/4/26, effective 3/11/26]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 137C.

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