A licensed child-care home is defined as: A building or portion of a building in which seven but not more than 12 children receive supervision and personal care on less than a 24-hour basis in the caregiver’s own residence for ages birth through 13 years. The total number of children in care varies with the ages of the children, but the total number of children in care at any given time, including the children related to the caregiver, must not exceed 12.

In accordance with the 2015 International Fire Code (IFC), Bexar County Rules for the Enforcement of the International Fire Code (IFC:BC) and International Building Code (IBC:BC), NFPA 101 Life Safety Code (LSC), and Title 11 Local Government Code (LGC), licensed child-care home daycares shall meet, but are not limited to, the following State and Local requirements.

- Annual fire inspections shall meet regulations set by the local fire marshal.  
  *(LGC Title 11, Section 352.016)*

- Plans and procedures for meeting disasters and emergencies, such as fire and severe weather, must be written and available upon request by the fire code official.  
  *(2015 IFC Chapter 404 / 2015 LSC 17.7.1)*

- Emergency evacuation drills must be conducted on a monthly basis. Documentation of the drills shall be made available upon request by the fire code official.  
  *(2015 IFC Chapter 405 / 2015 LSC 17.7.2.1)*

- Home addresses must be visible from the street. Address numbers must be at least 6 inches in height and on a contrasting background (white on black, black on white).  
  *(2015 IFC:BC 505.1)*

- At least two exit doors leading to the outside, located in distant parts of the home, shall be provided.  
  *(2015 IFC Chapter 1014 / 2015 LSC 17.2.4.1)*
A battery-operated source of emergency lighting in case of electrical failure shall be provided in the home.
(2015 LSC 16.2.9)

Smoke detectors are required on each level of the home and in each sleeping area, recreation/activity area or space, and other common spaces accessible to clients. Smoke detectors shall be installed at least 36 inches away from A/C vents or ceiling fan blades; if mounted on the ceiling, install at least 6” away from wall; if mounted on a wall, install approximately 6 inches below the ceiling.
(2015 LSC 17.3.4.5)

Fire extinguishers are required on each level of the home. Minimum size shall be 2A10BC. Fire extinguishers shall be accessible at all times. Fire extinguishers must be serviced and tagged annually by a state-licensed company.
(2015 IFC Chapter 906)

Every living area, bedrooms, or space greater than 250 sq. ft. must have at least one window for emergency escape. The window shall not be equipped with burglar/security bars.
(2015 LSC 17.2.11.1 and 16.2.11.1.1 / 2015 IFC Chapter 10)

Double-keyed deadbolts are not permitted on exit doors.
(2015 IFC Chapter 10)

Unvented fuel-fired heaters are not permitted.
(2015 LSC 17.5.2.2)

Electrical outlets/switches must have covers and electrical devices/cords must be in good, working condition. Exposed wiring and splices are not permitted.
(LGC Title 11, Section 352.016(3) / 2015 IFC Chapter 6)

Every closet door latch shall be such that the door can be opened from the inside of the closet with no locking device on the door.
(2015 LSC 17.2.2.2.4)

Every bathroom door lock shall be designed to allow opening of the locked door from the outside by an opening device that shall be readily accessible to caregivers.
(2015 LSC 17.2.2.2.5)

Clothing and personal effects must not be stored in a way the obstructs the paths of egress and shall not be stored in corridors or lobbies.
(2015 IFC Chapter 8)

Artwork and teaching materials shall not exceed 20% of the wall area.
(2015 LSC 17.7.4.3)

Special protective covers for electrical outlets must be installed in all areas occupied by clients.
(2015 LSC 17.5.1.2)

Screen or mesh barriers are required in front of fireplaces. Glass barriers can become extremely hot so screen or mesh barriers must be installed over the glass barrier to help reduce risk of burns from touching the glass.
(2015 LSC A.18.5.2.3(2)(d))
Carbon monoxide detectors are required where fuel-burning appliances or fireplaces are installed. They shall be mounted on the ceilings of rooms containing permanently installed fuel-burning appliances or installed in a centrally located area adjacent to an attached garage or near first supply air register in spaces where fuel-burning appliances are installed or where there is a fuel-burning HVAC system.

(2015 LSC 28.3.4.6.4)

A residential vent/hood extinguishing system and residential vent/hood shall be installed in lieu of a commercial fire extinguishing system when domestic cooking appliances are present in licensed child-care homes that care for 7 or more children. In existing licensed child-care homes that do not have this system currently installed, the fire code official shall be authorized to allow up to 180 days for installation. These systems shall be equipped with some type of audible notification of activation.

(2015 IFC:BC 609.2.1)

For other questions or information, please call the Bexar County Fire Marshal’s Office at 210-335-0300 and ask to speak with the inspector in charge of licensed facilities.
The Bexar County Fire Marshal’s Office will accept applications for any vent/hood extinguishing system that is UL listed for protecting residential type cooking equipment. These applications are not applicable for commercial-type cooking equipment.

This list includes all companies that have responded to our inquiry at this time, and that install these types of systems. Any additional companies that respond will be added to the list at that time.