

Note: The language in italics was approved by the Rules Review Commission at its January 30, 2025 meeting and was not in effect until August 1, 2025.

10A NCAC 13G .1604 RATING CALCULATION

(a) Ratings shall be based on:

- (1) Inspections completed pursuant to G.S. *131D-2.11(a) and (a1)*;
- (2) Statutory and Rule requirements listed in Rule .1603 of this Section;
- (3) Type *A1*, *Type A2*, or uncorrected Type B penalty violations identified pursuant to G.S. 131D-34; and
- (4) Other items listed in Subparagraphs (c)(1) and (c)(2) of this Rule.

(b) The initial rating a facility receives shall remain in effect until the next inspection. If an activity occurs which results in the assignment of additional merit or demerit points, a new certificate shall be issued pursuant to Rule .1602(a) of this Section.

(c) The rating shall be based on a 100 point scale. Beginning with the initial rating and repeating with each annual or biennial inspection, the facility shall be assigned 100 points and shall receive merits or demerits, which shall be added or subtracted from the 100 points, respectively. The merits and demerits shall be assigned as follows:

(1) Merit Points

- (A) If the facility corrects *a standard deficiency* of noncompliance with the statutes or rules listed in Rule .1603 of this Subchapter, the facility shall receive 1.25 merit points for each corrected deficiency;
- (B) *If the facility corrects a citation for which a Type B violation was identified, the facility shall receive 1.75 merit points;*
- (C) *If the facility corrects a previously uncorrected Type B violation, the facility shall receive 1.75 merit points;*
- (D) *If the facility corrects the citation for which a Type A1 or Type A2 violation was identified, the facility shall receive 5 merit points;*
- (E) *If the facility corrects a previously uncorrected Type A1 or A2 violation, the facility shall receive 5 merit points;*
- (F) If the facility's admissions have been suspended pursuant to 131D-2.7, the facility shall receive 5 merit points if the suspension is removed;
- (G) *If the facility's license is restored to a full license after being downgraded to a provisional license, the facility shall receive 5 merit points;*
- (H) If the facility participates in any quality improvement program pursuant to G.S. 131D-10, the facility shall receive 2.5 merit points;
- (I) *If the facility establishes an ongoing resident council which meets at least quarterly, the facility shall receive .5 merit point;*
- (J) *If the facility establishes an ongoing family council which meets at least quarterly, the facility shall receive .5 merit point;*
- (K) *If the facility's designated on-site staff member who directs the facility's infection control activities in accordance with G.S. 131D-4.4A has completed the "Infection Control in Long Term Care Facilities" course offered by the University of North Carolina Statewide Program for Infection Control and Epidemiology (SPICE) every two years, the facility shall receive .5 merit point;*
- (L) If the facility permanently installs a generator or has a contract with a generator provider to provide emergency power for essential functions of the facility, the facility shall receive 2 merit points. For purposes of this Rule, essential functions mean those functions necessary to maintain the health or safety of residents during power outages greater than 6 hours and include the fire alarm system, heating, lighting, refrigeration for medication storage, minimal cooking, elevators, medical equipment, computers, door alarms, special locking systems, sewage and well operation where applicable, sprinkler system, and telephones. If the facility has an existing permanently installed generator or an existing contract with a generator provider, the facility shall receive 1 merit point for maintaining the generator in working order or continuing the contract with a generator provider;
- (M) *If the facility installs automatic sprinklers in compliance with the North Carolina Building Code, and maintains the system in working order, the facility shall receive 3 merit points. If the facility has an existing automatic sprinkler, the facility shall receive 2*

merit points for subsequent ratings for maintaining the automatic sprinklers in working order; and

(N) *If the facility engages the services of a third-party company to conduct resident and family satisfaction surveys at least annually for the purpose of improving resident care, the facility shall receive 1 merit point. Resident and family satisfaction surveys shall not be conducted by any employees of the facility, or a third-party company affiliated with the facility. The satisfaction survey results shall be made available upon request and in a location accessible to residents and visitors in the facility.*

(2) Demerit Points

(A) For each *standard deficiency* of noncompliance with the statutes or rules listed in Rule .1603 of this Subchapter, the facility shall receive a demerit of 2 points. The facility shall receive demerit points only once for citations in which the findings are identical to those findings used for another citation;

(B) For each citation of a Type A1 or Type A2 violation, the facility shall receive a demerit of 10 points, and if the Type A1 or Type A2 violation remains uncorrected as result of a follow-up inspection, the facility shall receive an additional demerit of 10 points;

(C) For each citation of a Type B violation, the facility shall receive a demerit of 3.5 points and if the Type B violation remains uncorrected as the result of a follow-up inspection, the facility shall receive an additional demerit of 3.5 points;

(D) If the facility's admissions are suspended pursuant to G.S. 131D-2.7, the facility shall receive a demerit of 10 points; however, if the facility's admissions are suspended pursuant to G.S. 131D-2.7, G.S. 131D-4.2, the facility shall not receive any demerit points;

(E) *If the facility's license is downgraded to a provisional license pursuant to G.S. 131D-2.7, the facility shall receive a demerit of 10 points;*

(F) If the facility receives a notice of revocation against its license pursuant to G.S. 131D-2.7, the facility shall receive a demerit of 31 points; and

(G) *If the facility's license is summarily suspended pursuant to G.S. 131D-2.7, the facility shall receive a demerit of 31 points.*

(d) Facilities shall be given a rating of zero to four stars depending on the score assigned pursuant to Paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of this Rule. Ratings shall be assigned as follows:

(1) Four stars shall be assigned to any facility whose score is 100 points or greater on two consecutive annual or biennial inspections;

(2) Three stars shall be assigned for scores of 90 to 99.9 points, or for any facility whose score is 100 points or greater on one annual or biennial inspection;

(3) Two stars shall be assigned for scores of 80 to 89.9 points;

(4) One star shall be assigned for scores of 70 to 79.9 points; and

(5) Zero stars shall be assigned for scores of 69.9 points or lower.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 131D-4.5; 131D-10;
Eff. July 3, 2008;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2025;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2026.*