

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS
FOR
PROPOSED BUILDING STANDARDS
OF THE
OFFICE OF STATEWIDE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

REGARDING THE CALIFORNIA ELECTRICAL CODE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PART 3

ADOPTION OF THE 2005 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE

The Administrative Procedure Act (APA) requires that an Initial Statement of Reasons be available to the public upon request when rulemaking action is being undertaken. The following information required by the APA pertains to this particular rulemaking action:

STATEMENT OF SPECIFIC PURPOSE AND RATIONALE:

OVERVIEW

The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development OSHPD is mandated to adopt the most recent edition of model code, as amended by the Office, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 18928. This rulemaking represents OSHPD's proposal to adopt the 2005 National Electrical Code (NEC) published by the National Fire Protection Association carrying forward specified existing California amendments of the 2004 California Electrical Code (CBC); and significantly amending sections regarding acute care hospital facilities service space.

California Article 89.110.3 OSHPD 3:

The purpose of this amendment is to clarify that OSHPD 3 licensed clinics include those clinics operating under a hospital's license.

Article 110.2 Approval:

The question of what constitutes approval often arises in conjunction with various types of equipment to be installed in health facilities. The code is unclear as to exactly what criteria constitutes approval of specific types of equipment. This amendment clarifies the requirement.

Article 517.22(C)

(C) Lamp Protection. Lamps in fixtures shall be protected against accidental breakage by means of an enclosing lens or diffuser. :

There is confusion of when a light fixture has proper lamp protection. Use of the term "approved soffit" is unnecessary since the Office is now allowing a fixture to be surface mounted if its listing allows it. 144 or 96 square inches is a large area and creates a problem to provide adequate lamp protection.

To provide clarity, **Exceptions No. 1 & No. 2** is combined to create **Exception No. 1**. In order to provide proper lamp protection, the maximum size of an opening is reduced from 144 or 96 square inches to 64 square inches. Additionally, language is added indicating that the fixture may be surface mounted if allowed by its listing.

Exception No. 3 is renumbered to Exception No. 2. Wall mounted night lights should have the same protection as other fixtures so 64 square inch louvers are specified. Additionally, language is added indicating that the fixture may be surface mounted if allowed by its listing.

Articles 517.30 Essential Electrical Systems for Hospitals (A) Applicability and 517.45 Essential Electrical Systems for Other Health Care Facilities (F) Ambulatory Surgery Clinics:

The essential electrical system of an Ambulatory Surgical Clinic is required by Sections 517.45 (B) and (C) to comply with Sections 517.30 through 517.35. Ambulatory Surgical Clinics contain operating and recovery rooms, which are defined as critical care areas, and where electrical life support equipment is likely to be required.

As the requirements of Sections 517.30 through 517.35 are made by reference only for Ambulatory Surgical Clinics, many designers of stand alone surgical clinics fail to implement these requirements.

These proposed amendments would make it clear that the requirements of Sections 517.30 through 517.35 also apply to the essential electrical systems of Ambulatory Surgical Clinics.

The present language of Section 517.45 (F) is a partial listing of systems required to be supplied by the essential electrical system of an Ambulatory Surgical Clinic. All systems required to be supplied by the essential electrical system of an Ambulatory Surgical Clinic are described in Sections 517.30 through 517.35.

Article 517.33 Critical Branch. (A) Task Illumination and Selected Receptacles (8)a:

The requirement for at least one duplex receptacle connected to the critical branch is already required in Paragraphs 517.18 and 517.19. This statement has been falsely interpreted to mean that only the receptacle and not task lighting is required to be connected to the critical branch.

Article 517.35 Sources of Power (4) :

This amendment is necessary because of California requirement of 24 hours and 72 hours (by the year 2030) of full demand operation of essential services when normal power is interrupted. Batteries cannot provide this requirement.

Article 517.42 Automatic Connection to the Life Safety Branch and Article 517.44 Sources of Power

This amendment is in response to a public petition by Systems Technologies to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. The Office agreed with the petition to allow wireless nurse call systems in skilled nursing facilities. The amendments allow an exception stating that battery-powered components of wireless nurse call systems that comply with the appropriate standard are not required to be connected to the life safety branch or the alternate source of power.

TECHNICAL, THEORETICAL, AND EMPIRICAL STUDY, REPORT, OR SIMILAR DOCUMENTS:

There are no documents to identify.

CONSIDERATION OF REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

No reasonable alternatives exist.

REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES THE AGENCY HAS IDENTIFIED THAT WOULD LESSEN ANY ADVERSE IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESS.

No adverse impact on small business.

FACTS, EVIDENCE, DOCUMENTS, TESTIMONY, OR OTHER EVIDENCE OF NO SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACT ON BUSINESS.

No adverse impact on business.

DUPLICATION OR CONFLICTS WITH FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Not applicable.