

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION
FOR
PROPOSED BUILDING STANDARDS
OF THE
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
REGARDING THE 2007 CALIFORNIA MECHANICAL CODE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS TITLE 24, PART 4.**

Notice is hereby given that the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) on behalf of the Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM) proposes to adopt, approve, codify, and publish building standards contained in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24, Part 4. The SFM is proposing building standards related to the 2007 California Mechanical Code.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The California Building Standards Commission on behalf of the Office of the State Fire Marshal will hold a public hearing at [TIME], on [DATE] at [ADDRESS], during which time any person may present statements or arguments relevant to the proposed regulatory action summarized below.

Written comments will be accepted by the California Building Standards Commission regarding the proposed changes from [DATE] until [TIME] on [DATE].

Please address your comments to:

California Building Standards Commission (CBSC)
2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 130
Sacramento, CA 95833
Attention: Michael L. Nearmen

Written Comments may also be faxed to (916) 263-0959 or E-mailed to CBSC@dgs.ca.gov.

OR

A public hearing has not been scheduled; however, written comments will be accepted from [DATE], until [TIME] on [DATE].

Please address your comments to:

California Building Standards Commission (CBSC)
2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 130
Sacramento, CA 95833
Attention: Michael L. Nearmen

Written Comments may also be faxed to (916) 263-0959 or E-mailed to CBSC@dgs.ca.gov.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 11346.5 (a) 17, any interested person or his or her duly authorized representative may request, no later than 15 days prior to the close of the written comment period, that a public hearing be held.

POST-HEARING MODIFICATIONS TO THE TEXT OF THE REGULATIONS

Following the public comment period, the CBSC may adopt the proposed building standards substantially as proposed in this notice or with modifications that are sufficiently related to the original proposed text and notice of proposed changes. If modifications are made, the full text of the proposed modifications, clearly indicated, will be

made available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date on which the CBSC adopts, amends, or repeals the regulation(s). CBSC will accept written comments on the modified building standards during the 15-day period.

NOTE: To be notified of any modifications, you must submit written/oral comments or request that you be notified of any modifications.

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE

The California Building Standards Commission proposes to adopt these building standards under the authority granted by Health and Safety Code section 18949.2. The purpose of these building standards is to implement, interpret, and make specific the provisions of Health and Safety Code section 18929.1.

The SFM is proposing this regulatory action pursuant to Health and Safety Code Sections 13108, 13211, 13113, 13113.5, 13114, 13132.7, 13133, 13135, 13143, 13143.1, 13143.6, 13143.9, 13146, 17921, and 18897.3

INFORMATIVE DIGEST

Summary of Existing Laws

Health and Safety Code Section 13108 (a) The State Fire Marshal shall prepare and adopt building standards related to the means of egress, the installation of fire alarms and fire extinguishing systems in any state-owned building or in any state-occupied building.

Health and Safety Code Section 13113 A automatic sprinkler system shall be installed in all 24-hour institutional type occupancies, and homes for the care of aged or senile persons.

Health and Safety Code Section 13113.5 The State Fire Marshal Shall adopt regulations requiring the installation of automatic smoke detectors in all facilities which provide 24-hour per day care, which house six or fewer persons, and which do not have automatic sprinkler systems.

Health and Safety Code Section 13114 (a) The State Fire Marshal shall adopt regulations and standards to control the quality and installation of fire alarm systems and fire alarm devices marketed, distributed, offered for sale, or sold in this state, and that no person shall market, distribute, offer for sale, or sell any fire alarm system or fire alarm device in this state unless the system or device has been approved and listed by the State Fire Marshal.

Health and Safety Code Section 13132 Every person, firm, or corporation maintaining or operating any facility for the care of the mentally handicapped shall file a statement with the fire authority having jurisdiction within five days of the admission or readmission of a patient stating that such patient is an ambulatory or a nonambulatory person and enumerating the reasons for such classification. Such a statement shall also be filed for each existing patient within 30 days of the effective date of this section.

Any statement required to be filed pursuant to this section shall be certified as to its correctness by the person attending such patient.

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation required to file a statement pursuant to this section to include false statements therein. Any such act shall be in violation of this section and subject to the provisions of Section 13112.

Health and Safety Code Section 13132.7 Mandates fire retardant roof coverings in fire hazard severity zones.

Health and Safety Code Section 13133 (a) The State Fire Marshal shall develop and adopt regulations establishing new occupancy classifications and specific fire safety standards appropriate for residential facilities, and residential care facilities for the elderly. These fire safety standards shall apply uniformly throughout the state.

Health and Safety Code Section 13135 The State Fire Marshal shall adopt regulations for alcoholism or drug abuse recovery or treatment facilities based on whether the residents or patients of the facilities are nonambulatory.

Health and Safety Code Section 13143 grants the State Fire Marshal authority to prepare and adopt regulations establishing minimum requirements for the prevention of fire and for the protection of life and property against fire and panic in any building or structure used or intended for use as an asylum, jail, mental hospital, hospital, home for the

elderly, children's nursery, children's home or institution not otherwise excluded from the coverage of this subdivision, school, or any similar occupancy of any capacity, and in any assembly occupancy where 50 or more persons may gather together in a building, room, or structure for the purpose of amusement, entertainment, instruction, deliberation, worship, drinking or dining, awaiting transportation, or education.

Health and Safety Code Section 13143.1 (a) The State Fire Marshal shall prepare, adopt, and submit building standards for establishing minimum requirements for the prevention of fire and for the protection of life and property against fire and panic in any motion picture or television production facility.

Health and Safety Code Section 13143.6 (a) The State Fire Marshal shall prepare and adopt regulations establishing minimum standards for the prevention of fire and for the protection of life and property against fire in any building or structure used intended for use as a home or institution for the housing of any person of any age for protective social care and supervision services by any governmental agency, certified family care homes, out-of-home placement facilities, and halfway houses.

Health and Safety Code Section 13143.9 (a) The State Fire Marshal shall prepare, adopt, and submit building standards and other fire and life safety regulations establishing minimum requirements for the storage, handling, and use of hazardous materials.

Health and Safety Code Section 13211 The State Fire Marshal shall prepare and adopt building standards relating to fire and panic safety in high-rise structures.

Health and Safety Code Section 17921 (b) The State Fire Marshal shall adopt, amend, or repeal and submit building standards for approval pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 18935) of Part 2.5, and the State Fire Marshal shall adopt, amend, and repeal other rules and regulations for fire and panic safety in all hotels, motels, lodging houses, apartment houses and dwellings, buildings, and structures accessory thereto. These building standards and regulations shall be enforced pursuant to Sections 13145 and 13146; however, this section is not intended to require an inspection by a local fire agency of each single-family dwelling prior to its occupancy.

Health and Safety Code Section 18928 (a) requires each state agency adopting or proposing adoption of a model code, national standards, or specification shall reference the most recent edition of applicable model codes, national standards, or specifications.

Health and Safety Code Section 18897.3 Except as provided in Section 18930, the State Fire Marshal shall adopt minimum fire safety regulations for organized camps in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code. The State Fire Marshal shall adopt and submit building standards for approval pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 18935) of Part 2.5 of this division for the purposes described in this section.

Health and Safety Code Section 18949.2(b) The State Fire Marshal shall remain the state agency responsible for developing building standards to implement the state's fire and life safety policy. In its role as the fire and life safety standard developing agency, the State Fire Marshal shall continue its existing activities and forums designed to facilitate compromise and consensus among the various individuals and groups involved in development of the state's codes related to fire and life safety.

(c) The state's fire and life safety building standards, as developed by the State Fire Marshal and as adopted by the commission, shall continue to be based on the state's fire and life safety policy goals and mandates as they existed prior to the enactment of this chapter and as they are amended.

Summary of Existing Regulations

The State Fire Marshal currently adopts and enforces the 2007 California Mechanical Code as part of Title 24, CCR, Part 4; with specific amendments relating to fire and panic safety in SFM regulated occupancies.

Summary of Effect

The general purpose of this proposed action is principally intended to update the California Mechanical Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 4) based upon updated information or recent actions of the OSFM, State Law or Federal law. This proposed action:

- Repeal amendments to the 2006 Uniform Mechanical Code and/or California Building Standards not addressed by the model code that are no longer necessary nor justified pursuant with Health and Safety Code 18930(a)(7).
- Adopt and implement additional necessary amendments to the 2006 Uniform Mechanical Code that address inadequacies of the 2006 Uniform Mechanical Code as they pertain to California laws.
- Bring forward previously existing California amendments, which represent no change in their effect from the 2001 California Mechanical Code. Some of the existing California amendments will be amended as follows:
 - Renumbering in order to fit into the newly adopted text of the 2006 Uniform Mechanical Code.
 - Adding or changing the references to the application authority of SFM.
 - Language changes for clarification of existing law.
 - Not adopting into the text of the 2006 Uniform Mechanical Code.
- Codify non-substantive editorial and formatting amendments to the 2007 California Mechanical Code.

Comparable Federal Statute or Regulations

The SFM has determined that there are no comparable federal regulations or statues addressing the fire and life safety requirements as presented in this notice.

Policy Statement Overview

The specific purpose of this rulemaking effort by the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is to act accordance with Health and Safety Code section 18929.1, which requires all proposed regulations to specifically comply with this section in regards to the annual code adoption cycle.

The actions described above are reasonably necessary to carry out the purpose for which it is proposed. The rationale for these actions is to establish minimum requirements for the prevention of fire and for the protection of life and property against fire and panic in occupancies addressed in the 2006 Uniform Mechanical Code and published as the 2007 California Mechanical Code.

The SFM further proposes to offer new amendments where necessary to ensure that the regulations of the CMC, establish and or maintain minimum requirements for the prevention of fire and for the protection of life and property against fire and in any building or structure used or intended for use as defined in each of the Health and Safety Code references shown above in the summary of existing laws.

OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE APPLICABLE TO THE AGENCY OR TO ANY SPECIFIC REGULATION OR CLASS OF REGULATIONS

The SFM has determined that there are no other prescribed statutes or to any specific regulation or class of regulation applicable to the adoption by reference and the amendments relating to the 2006 UMC.

MANDATE ON LOCAL AGENCIES OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The SFM has determined that the proposed regulatory action would not impose a mandate on local agencies or school districts.

ESTIMATE OF COST OR SAVINGS

- A. Cost or Savings to any state agency: **NO**
- B. Cost to any local agency required to be reimbursed under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4: **NO**
- C. Cost to any school district required to be reimbursed under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4: **NO**
- D. Other nondiscretionary cost or savings imposed on local agencies: **NO**
- E. Cost or savings in federal funding to the state: **NO**

INITIAL DETERMINATION OF NO SIGNIFICANT STATEWIDE ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON BUSINESSES

The SFM has made an initial determination that this proposed regulatory action would not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with business in other states.

DECLARATION OF EVIDENCE

The SFM affirms that this rulemaking action complies specifically with the mandates of Health and Safety Code Sections 13143, 18928, 18949.2(b), 18949(c) and the mandates of the statutory authority of the SFM as shown in the Informative Digest.

Therefore, the SFM's initial determination of no significant, statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business in California and their ability to compete with businesses in other states does not require any additional evidence, documents or other evidence to support this action.

FINDING OF NECESSITY FOR THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH, SAFETY, OR WELFARE

The SFM has made an assessment of the proposed code changes and has determined that these changes would not require a report; therefore, a finding is not necessary for the health, safety, or welfare of the people of the state that the regulation is applicable to businesses.

COST IMPACT ON REPRESENTATIVE PRIVATE PERSON OR BUSINESS

The SFM is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

ASSESSMENT OF EFFECT OF REGULATIONS UPON JOBS AND BUSINESS EXPANSION, ELIMINATION OR CREATION

The SFM has assessed that adoption of these regulations will not:

- Create or eliminate jobs within California;
- Create new businesses or eliminate existing businesses within California; or
- Affect the expansion of businesses currently doing business within California.

INITIAL DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON HOUSING COSTS

The SFM has made an initial determination that this proposal would not have a significant effect on housing costs.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with Government Code §11346.5 subdivision (a)(13), the SFM has determined that no reasonable alternative considered by it or that has been otherwise identified and brought to the attention of the SFM would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action.

AVAILABILITY OF RULEMAKING DOCUMENTS

All of the information upon which the proposed regulations are based is contained in the rulemaking file, which is available for public review, by contacting the person named below. This notice, the express terms and initial statement of reasons can be accessed from the California Building Standards Commission website:

<http://www.bsc.ca.gov/>

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the final statement of reasons once it has been prepared, by making a written request to the contact person named below or at the California Building Standards Commission website.

CBSC CONTACT PERSON FOR PROCEDURAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS

General questions regarding procedural and administrative issues should be addressed to:

**Michael L. Nearman
California Building Standards Commission
2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 130
Sacramento, CA 95833**

**Telephone No.: (916) 263-0916
Facsimile No.: (916) 263-0959**

PROPOSING STATE AGENCY CONTACT PERSON FOR SUBSTANTIVE AND/OR TECHNICAL QUESTIONS ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BUILDING STANDARDS

Specific questions regarding the substantive and/or technical aspects of the proposed changes to the building standards should be addressed to:

**Kevin Reinertson
Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal
Office of the State Fire Marshal,
Code Development and Analysis Division
(916) 327-4998
kevin.reinertson@fire.ca.gov
FAX: (916) 445-8459**