

**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 2008 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 2008 National Electrical Code (NEC) published by the National Fire Protection Association carrying forward specified existing California amendments of the 2007 California Electrical Code (CBC); and amending sections regarding acute care hospital and skilled nursing facilities service space.

Article 100 - Definition for "Coordination (Selective)"

This definition is being amended to allow selective coordination requirements in Articles 700.27 and 701.18 to be enforceable to the degree that it does not require specific types of overcurrent protection or unnecessarily oversized equipment.

Table 220.42 Lighting Load Demand Factors

This amendment is based on a Hospital Building Safety Board appeal decision. The factors of Table 220.42 will not be applied in the areas of a general acute care hospital as specified in the amendment.

Articles 352, 362, 380, 382, 388 & 392

Articles 352, 362, 380, 382, 388 and 392 are being repealed. These amendments are not necessary because the materials are addressed in Article 517.13(A).

Article 404.4

This amendment clarifies existing language by specifying the distance for the placement of switches in a shower stall.

Article 404.8(A)(2)

This amendment is being repealed from Article 404.8 because it is not in the appropriate location of the code. It is being moved to Article 404.4, which provides requirements for switches in wet locations.

Article 406.8(C)(1)

This amendment clarifies existing language by specifying the distance for the placement of receptacles in a shower stall.

Article 517.16 This amendment will provide coordination and clarification of the requirements in Articles 250.146(D), 406.2(D), 517.13 and 517.16 as they apply to insulated ground receptacles in patient care areas. Additionally, isolated ground receptacles do not satisfy the implied requirement of Article 517.13 for parallel ground paths. A sign is to be provided to alert staff to the increased risk of connecting patient care equipment to the receptacle.

Article 517.22(A), (B)(1) & (2)

Editorial amendments to Article 517.22 (A) and (B)(1) are necessary for clarity. The amendment in (B)(2) is being proposed as a result of a Skilled Nursing Facility Advisory Committee review and an update to the California Building Code requirements for skilled nursing facilities. It was determined during this review that the ANSI lighting standards are most appropriate for skilled nursing facilities.

Article 517.33(A)(5)

Currently, wireless nurse call systems are allowed in skilled nursing facilities but not hospitals. This amendment allows wireless nurse call systems in hospitals.

Article 517.33(A)(7)

This amendment adds information technology rooms to telephone room requirements to be connected to the critical branch. Information technology rooms are considered to be equivalent to telephone rooms and should be required to have task illumination, fixed equipment, selected receptacles, and special power circuits connected to the critical branch. Continued functioning of these systems is considered essential to effective hospital operation.

Article 517.35(B)(4)

Currently, wireless nurse call systems are allowed in skilled nursing facilities but not hospitals. This amendment allows wireless nurse call systems in hospitals.

Article 517.42(C)(3)

This amendment clarifies the edition of ANSI/UL 1069 that skilled nursing facilities and hospitals must comply with.

Article 517.44(B.1) Exception No. 2

The amendment clarifies that battery-powered components of wireless emergency nurse call systems are not required to have the wireless components connected to the alternate source of power. .

Article 517.123(C)(3)

This amendment clarifies the location of audible and visual devices required for the emergency alarm system (code blue).

Article 700.4(A)

This amendment specifies the standard to which generator sets must be tested.

Article 700.4(B)

This amendment clarifies that the Department of Public Health, Licensing and Certification is the authority having jurisdiction for periodic testing of emergency generators.

Article 700.6(C)

This amendment requires all transfer switches to be listed regardless of voltage. The amendment coordinates with Article 110.2, which requires all equipment to be listed.

Article 700.27

The repeal of this amendment is necessary for coordination with the proposed amendment to Article 100 regarding the definition of “coordination (selective)”.

Article 701.18

The repeal of this amendment is necessary for coordination with the proposed amendment to Article 100 regarding the definition of “coordination (selective)”.

Article 708.1

This new article in the 2008 NEC contains strict requirements for electrical distribution systems such as requiring all wiring to be in conduit including low voltage wiring, all switchgear to be located above the 100 year flood plain elevation, etc. This article requires the authority having jurisdiction to determine the occupancies that must comply with the article. Because Article 517 does not refer to Article 708.1, the amendment is required to clearly indicate that compliance with the article is not required for OSHPD 1, 2, 3 and 4.

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.