

**INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS
FOR
PROPOSED BUILDING STANDARDS
OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
REGARDING THE AMENDMENT OF THE 2013 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PART 2
(HCD 02/13)**

The Administrative Procedure Act (APA) requires an Initial Statement of Reasons to 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, PROBLEM, RATIONALE AND BENEFITS:

(Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(1) requires a statement of specific purpose of each adoption, amendment or repeal, the problem the agency intends to address and the rationale for the determination by the agency that each adoption, amendment or repeal is reasonably necessary to carry out the purpose, including the problem the agency intends to address, for which it is proposed. The statement shall enumerate the benefits anticipated from the regulatory action, including the benefits or goals provided in the authorizing statute.)

1) The Public Problem, Administrative Requirement, or Other Circumstance Addressed.

Administrative Requirement: Health and Safety Code Sections 17921, 17922 and 19990 direct the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to propose adoption, amendment or repeal of building standards for the protection of public health, safety and general welfare. Government Code Section 12955.1 provides direction for HCD to propose adoption of building standards necessary to prohibit discrimination in the design and construction of all housing other than publicly funded housing.

2) Specific Purpose

HCD has determined the amendment of the 2013 edition of the California Building Code is needed pursuant to the requirements of Health and Safety Code Section 17921 and Government Code Section 12955.1.

The specific purpose of these regulations is to amend the 2013 California Building Code, Title 24, Part 2, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) for the following programs:

- a) **State Housing Law:** 1. relative to residential occupancies, buildings or structures accessory thereto and as provided in Health and Safety Code Section 17921; 2. relative to California Fair Employment and Housing Act accessibility requirements as provided in Government Code Section 12955.1, except where the application is for public use only.
- b) **Employee Housing Act:** relative to any building or structure or outdoors on premises or property in accordance with Health and Safety Code Section 17040.
- c) **Mobilehome Parks or Special Occupancy Parks:** relative to the use of building systems in or on any permanent buildings, accessory buildings, and structures under the ownership and control of the park operator within the park in accordance with Health and Safety Code Section 18300 for mobilehome parks, and Sections 18865 and 18873 for special occupancy parks.
- d) **Factory-Built Housing Law:** relative to residential buildings, dwellings or portions thereof, or building components, or manufactured assemblies in accordance with Health and Safety Code Section 19990.

STATEMENT OF JUSTIFICATION FOR PRESCRIPTIVE STANDARDS

(Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(4) requires a statement of the reasons why an agency believes any mandates for specific technologies or equipment or prescriptive standards are required.)

HCD is statutorily required to adopt by reference model building codes, which contain prescriptive standards. Prescriptive standards provide the following: explicit guidance for certain mandated requirements; consistent application and enforcement of building standards while also establishing clear design parameters; and ensure compliance with minimum health, safety and welfare standards for owners, occupants and guests.

Performance standards are permitted by state law; however, they must be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the proper enforcing agency.

CONSIDERATION OF REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

(Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(5)(A) requires a description of reasonable alternatives to the regulation and the agency's reason for rejecting those alternatives. In the case of a regulation that would mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment or prescribe specific action or procedures, the imposition of performance standards shall be considered an alternative. It is not the intent of this paragraph to require the agency to artificially construct alternatives or describe unreasonable alternatives.)

None. There were no alternatives available to HCD. HCD is required by statute to adopt model codes by reference.

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

(Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(5)(B) requires a description of any reasonable alternatives that have been identified or that have otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the agency that would lessen any adverse impact on small business.)

None. There were no alternatives available to HCD. HCD is required by statute to adopt model codes by reference.

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

(Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(6)(A) requires the facts, evidence, documents, testimony, or other evidence on which the agency relies to support an initial determination that the action will not have a significant adverse economic impact on business.)

HCD has determined that this regulatory action would have no significant adverse economic impact on California business enterprises and individuals, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

ESTIMATED COST OF COMPLIANCE, ESTIMATED POTENTIAL BENEFITS, AND RELATED ASSUMPTIONS USED FOR BUILDING STANDARDS THAT IMPACT HOUSING

(Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(6)(B) states if a proposed regulation that is a building standard impacts housing, the Initial Statement of Reasons shall include the estimated cost of compliance, the estimated potential benefits, and the related assumptions used to determine the estimates.)

- No increased cost of compliance because the regulations make only technical, nonsubstantive or clarifying changes.
- Potential benefits include clarifying that sound transmission regulations and the requirements affecting interior noise levels remain unchanged and have not been reduced.
- Pursuant to enacted legislation, the required installation date of carbon monoxide alarms in existing hotel and motel dwelling units is extended.

DUPLICATION OR CONFLICTS WITH FEDERAL REGULATIONS

(Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(7) requires a department, board, or commission within the Environmental Protection Agency, the Resources Agency, or the Office of the State Fire Marshal to describe its efforts, in connection with a proposed rulemaking action, to avoid unnecessary duplication or conflicts with federal regulations contained in the Code of Federal Regulations addressing the same issues. These agencies may adopt regulations different from these federal regulations upon a finding of one or more of the following justifications: (A) The differing state regulations are authorized by law and/or (B) The cost of differing state regulations is justified by the benefit to human health, public safety, public welfare, or the environment.)

These regulations do not duplicate nor conflict with federal regulations.