

INTRODUCTION	1450
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT	1451
CODE DEVELOPMENT	1452
ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS	1452.1
STRUCTURAL SAFETY	1452.2
HISTORICAL BUILDING CODE	1452.3

SAM—DIVISION OF STATE ARCHITECT

INTRODUCTION (Revised 12/13)

1450

The Division of the State Architect ([DSA](#)) provides design and construction oversight for K–12 public schools, community colleges and various state-owned and leased facilities. The Division also develops accessibility, structural safety, and historical building codes and standards utilized in various public and private buildings throughout the State of California.

The DSA operates from a Headquarters office in Sacramento and four Regional Offices located in Oakland, Sacramento, Los Angeles and San Diego. The State Architect is appointed by the governor and serves a four-year term. The State Architect reports to the Director of General Services and leads the DSA.

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT

1451

(New 12/13)

The [DSA](#) reviews construction projects for compliance with the California Building Standards Code, as contained in [Title 24](#) of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). The review consists of design review (construction plans, specifications and other documents) and oversight of project construction and applies to:

- K-12 public schools
- Community colleges
- State-owned and leased essential services buildings

The DSA also provides design review for compliance with accessibility standards of the California Building Standards Code, as contained in Title 24 of the CCR, for the following:

- State facilities
- California State University facilities
- University of California facilities

The DSA charges fees for its review and oversight, which are statutorily based as a percentage of the estimated cost of the project. The fees are payable at the time of submittal of application for plan review; subsequent changes during plan review or construction may be subject to additional review fees.

For detailed information on DSA construction oversight services, including forms and publications, refer to the DSA web site at www.dgs.ca.gov/dsa.

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CODE DEVELOPMENT

1452

(New 12/13)

The [DSA](#) is one of several state agencies that propose changes to the California Building Standards Code, as contained in [Title 24](#) of the CCR, through the Building Standard Commission's rulemaking process. Regulations and building standards proposed by DSA are approved and adopted by the California Building Standards Commission, which maintains the California Building Standards Code. The Commission's web site <http://www.bsc.ca.gov/Home.aspx> contains information on the code adoption process, proposed amendments and code publications.

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ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

1452.1

(New 12/13)

The [DSA](#) develops access-related building code amendments for both government facilities and privately owned public accommodations and commercial facilities. These amendments are contained in [Chapter 11B of Part 2 of Title 24, CCR](#). The DSA coordinates its amendments with the requirements of federal Americans with Disabilities Act Standards and also maintains reference resources to assist clients in meeting accessibility standards.

The DSA Access Compliance Section assists in the administration of Certified Access Specialist program (CAsp). This program certifies individuals who can render opinions as to the compliance of buildings and sites with the accessibility building standards.

For additional information on DSA services for accessibility standards refer to the DSA web site at <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/Programs/progAccess.aspx#t1>.

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STRUCTURAL SAFETY

1452.2

(New 12/13)

The [DSA](#) proposes [Title 24](#) building regulations for structural safety applicable to California's K-12 public schools, community colleges and state essential services facilities. In proposing these regulations, the DSA amends model building codes to meet the seismic performance objectives and administrative requirements of state law for these facilities. The DSA administrative regulations are contained in Part 1 of Title 24, CCR, also known as the California Administrative Code. Structural safety building requirements are contained in [Part 2 of Title 24, CCR](#).

In addition to its code proposals, the DSA also issues interpretations of code, as well as policies and procedures necessary for stakeholder understanding and coordination of enforcement among the DSA Regional Offices. For a list of DSA publications refer to the DSA web site at <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/Resources/pubs.aspx>.

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HISTORICAL BUILDING CODE

1452.3

(New 12/13)

The State Historical Building Code ([SHBC](#)) is adopted by the State Historical Building Safety Board, which is established as a unit within the DSA. The SHBC provides regulations and standards for the rehabilitation, preservation, restoration (including related reconstruction) or relocation, as applicable, to all historical buildings, structures and properties deemed of importance to the history, architecture, or culture of an area by an appropriate local or state governmental jurisdiction.

The SHBC is contained in Part 8 of Title 24, CCR. For detailed information about the SHBC and the State Historical Building Safety Board refer to the DSA web site at <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/AboutUs/shbsb.aspx>.