

**FINAL 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**

The Administrative Procedure Act requires that every agency shall maintain a file of each rulemaking that shall be deemed to be the record for that rulemaking proceeding. The rulemaking file shall include a final statement of reasons. The Final Statement of Reasons shall be available to the public upon request when rulemaking action is being undertaken. The following are the reasons for proposing this particular rulemaking action:

**STATEMENT OF SPECIFIC PURPOSE, PROBLEM, RATIONALE and BENEFITS**

The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) is mandated to adopt the most recent edition of model code pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 18928. This rulemaking represents OSHPD's proposal to adopt the 2014 National Electrical Code (NEC) published by the National Fire Protection Association; carry forward specified existing California amendments of the 2013 California Electrical Code (CEC) to the 2016 California Electrical Code. In addition, it was necessary to propose editorial and minor technical modifications to existing requirements within the code as identified below.

Specific amendments are as follows:

**Article 352.12** - The amendment is being repealed because it was inadvertently added to the 2010 CEC publication and is not necessary.

**Article 517.2** - Model code definitions for "General Care Area" and "Critical Care Area" have been changed to correspond with new definitions in NFPA 99-2012 and the term "Area" has been replaced with "Space". "General Care Space" and "Critical Care Space" are now defined relative to the risks to the patient and the types of injury that can occur to the patient. The patient care space is designated in accordance with the type of patient care anticipated and the area classification. The purpose of this amendment is to clarify the types of patient care spaces in General Care Spaces and Critical Care Spaces and to provide definitions for General Care Area and Critical Care Area because these terms are used in the model code but are not defined.

**Article 517.19(B)** - The amendment is being repealed because the quantity of required critical care patient bed receptacles has been increased from 6 to 14 in Article 517.19(B) of the 2014 NEC model code making the amendment unnecessary.

**Article 517.26** – Amended language to include the critical and equipment branches as being required to comply with Article 700. This matches the language in the 2011 edition of the National Electrical Code. Article 700 covers the requirements for the alternate source which is used to supply power to all three branches.

**Article 517.30(A)** – Added OSHPD-2 facilities complying with 517.40(B) to list of facilities applicable to 517.30 requirements. These are defined as nursing homes and limited care facilities that admit patients who need to be sustained by electrical life support equipment.

**Article 517.30(B)(3)&(5)** - Editorial renumbering to be alignment with the format of 2014 NEC model code.

**Article 517.30(B)(5)** – Amended this article to limit application for Skilled Nursing Facilities to those facilities complying with Article 517.40(B). Also, added requirement to prohibit transfer switches from being installed in the same room with the normal service equipment, where the service equipment is rated over 150 volts to ground and equal to or greater than 1000 amps. Chapter 27 of the California Building Code requires compliance with NFPA 110 for the life safety branch. Section 7.2.3 of NFPA 110 incorporates this requirement. Adding the amendment to Article 517.30(B)(5) of the California Electrical Code insures that this requirement applies to all transfer switches and not only to the life safety branch transfer switch.

**Article 517.30(D.1)** - Amended language is in alignment with the format of 2014 NEC model code.

**Article 517.33(A)(7)** - This amendment is being repealed because the requirement has been incorporated into the 2014 NEC model code.

**Article 517.34(A)(9)** – Section 321.0 of the California Plumbing Code has proposed additional equipment required to be connected to the essential electrical system. This amendment is necessary to align with the requirements of the California Plumbing Code.

**Article 517.41(B)** – Added requirement that all transfer switches located in skilled nursing facilities meeting the requirements of Article 517.40(B) must comply with Article 517.30(B)(5) to be consistent with the requirements of that article.

**Article 517.43(A)(9)** – Section 321.0 of the California Plumbing Code has proposed additional equipment required to be connected to the essential electrical system. This amendment is necessary to align with the requirements of the California Plumbing Code.

**Article 517.123(B)(1)Exception** - This amendment is necessary to clarify that two-way voice communication is not required at skilled nursing bed locations.

**Article 695.3(F)(1)** – Added an amendment to requirement that the fire pump transfer switch comply with Article 517.30(B)(5). The requirements in Article 517.30(B)(5) cover transfer switches for the life safety, critical, and equipment branches. Adding this amendment insures that the fire pump transfer switch also complies with these requirements.

**Article 700.3(A)** – This amendment is being updated to reflect the renumbering of specific sections of NFPA 99 and NFPA 110 standards regarding health facilities and emergency and standby power systems requirements. In addition, the specific editions of NFPA 99 and NFPA 110 are being repealed to ensure consistency with the Reference Standards in the California Building Code and to eliminate duplication within the code.

#### **UPDATES TO THE INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS**

OSHPD finds that no revisions have been made which would warrant a change to the initial statement of reasons for the proposed actions.

#### **MANDATE ON LOCAL AGENCIES OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

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

**OBJECTIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS MADE REGARDING THE PROPOSED REGULATION(S)**

OSHPD did not receive any objections or recommendations for the proposed actions as noticed during the 45-Day Comment Period of October 9, 2015, through November 23, 2015.

**DETERMINATION OF ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND EFFECT ON PRIVATE PERSONS**

OSHPD has determined that no alternative would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the regulation is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the adopted regulation. The proposed regulations are technical modifications that will provide clarification and consistency within the code.

**REJECTED PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE THAT WOULD LESSEN THE ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES**

OSHPD has determined that the proposed regulations will not have an adverse economic impact on small businesses. The proposed regulations are editorial and minor technical modifications that will provide clarification and consistency within the code.