

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS
FOR
PROPOSED BUILDING STANDARDS
OF THE
OFFICE OF STATEWIDE HEALTH PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

REGARDING THE CALIFORNIA PLUMBING CODE,
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PART 5

ADOPTION OF THE 2012 UNIFORM PLUMBING 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, PROBLEM, RATIONALE and BENEFITS:

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 proposed rulemaking represents OSHPD's proposal to adopt the 2012 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) published by International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) and carry forward existing California amendments into the 2013 California Plumbing Code (CMC). It was also necessary to propose a few editorial and minor technical modifications to the existing requirements for clarification and consistency within the code as identified below:

Section 210.0 Handwashing Fixture

This amendment was necessary to more closely match the "Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities", a nationally-recognized design guide. Changes here are a result of recently acquired knowledge of infection control.

Section 217.0 – O - Definitions

This creates the classification of OSHPD 3SE to specify OSHPD 3 clinics that can be granted special exemptions from existing code requirements. This brings the requirements for OSHPD 3SE clinics closer to those of less-restrictive model code, and will result in lower construction and maintenance costs.

Section 221.0 – S - Definitions

In this edit we remove the requirement for deck-mounted manual temperature controls for Scrub Sinks. This is to enhance the infection control with these fixtures. The requirement is added that sensor operated fixtures shall be capable of functioning during loss of electrical power so that these fixtures will remain fully functional in the case of loss of power.

Section 314.8 [OSHPD 1, 2, 3 & 4]

This amendment is moving the information regarding seismic anchorage and bracing requirements from section 609.11 to this section, creating this section. This amendment locates this information in a more appropriate location in the code.

Section 410.3 Flushometer Valves.

A requirement is added for [OSHPD 1, 2, 3 & 4] that flush valves shall be functional during loss of normal power. This is to ensure that human waste can be removed from the facility when the power is out.

Section 412.3.1

An exception is added for OSHPD 3 Primary Care Clinics allowing patient toilet rooms to be used for occupants in the waiting areas when the clinic has no more than three examination and/or treatment rooms. This will result in reduced construction costs.

Table 4-2 [OSHPD 1, 2, 3 & 4²⁴] Minimum Plumbing Facilities

The current version of this table downgraded the handwashing fixture requirement in some critical care areas to lavatories and this amendment reverses that, reinstating the handwash fixture requirement. This amendment closely matches the National Standard for the use of hand wash fixtures. This amendment adds the category of open-plan postanesthesia care units, and outpatient surgery facilities and relevant plumbing fixtures for them. Footnote changes to the table were made in order to make this table more consistent with the California Building Code. These changes clarify the requirement of scrub sinks outside of surgery sterile areas, and address bathing/shower requirements for multi-bed acute care spaces.

Section 604.1

An amendment is added to permit OSHPD 3SE facilities to use CPVC in domestic water systems. This would result in cost savings in construction of OSHPD 3SE clinics and make more existing structures available for these facilities.

Section 609.9 Disinfection of Potable Water System

An amendment is added to remove potable water system disinfection measures, beyond what is required in model code, for OSHPD 3SE. This will reduce construction costs for clinics.

Section 609.11 [OSHPD 1, 2, 3 & 4]

This amendment is moving the information regarding seismic anchorage and bracing requirements from this section to section 314.8, creating that section. This amendment locates this information in a more appropriate location in the code.

612.0 [OSHPD 1, 2, 3 & 4] Not required for [OSHPD 3SE]. Domestic Hot-Water Distribution Systems for Health Facilities and Clinics.

This amendment removes the requirement for redundant hot water systems for OSHPD 3SE facilities. This will result in a cost savings in construction and maintenance.

614.4 [OSHPD 1] Emergency Water Supply

This amendment modifies the second option to the required on-site water supply. Per this amendment the option requires the inclusion of a 5,000-gallon water storage tank. The amendment also adds the requirement that emergency water supply pumps shall be operated from emergency power. The purpose of this amendment is to increase the likelihood that a facility will remain functional after a seismic, or other catastrophic event.

701.1.2.1 [OSHPD 1, 2, 3 & 4] Permitted for [OSHPD 3SE]

This amendment allows ABS and PVC in sanitary sewer piping for OSHPD 3SE facilities. This will result in reduced construction costs of OSHPD 3SE clinics and make more existing structures available for these facilities.

727.0 [OSHPD 1] Emergency Sanitary Drainage

This amendment changes the basis for the sizing of the on-site waste water tank. The original Section based the size of the tank on 150 gallons per licensed bed. With this amendment the tank is sized based on a water rationing plan required in Section 614.4.1. This amendment also adds an exception to that tank in the form of an alternate plan to store sewage and liquid waste. The purpose of this amendment is to increase the likelihood that a facility will remain functional after a seismic, or other catastrophic event.

906.2.1 [OSHPD 1, 2, 3 & 4, except OSHPD 3SE]

This amendment exempts OSHPD 3SE facilities from the requirement that each vent pipe shall terminate not less than twenty-five (25) feet (7260 mm) from any air intake or vent shaft. This change is made to reduce construction costs for OSHPD 3SE facilities.

Section 1014.1A [OSHPD 1, 2, 3 & 4]

Editorial amendment.

Section 1014.1B [OSHPD 1, 2, 3 & 4]

This amendment changes a word to match current terminology.

Section 1015.6 [OSHPD 1, 2, 3 & 4]

This amendment changes a word to match current terminology.

TECHNICAL, THEORETICAL, AND EMPIRICAL STUDY, REPORT, OR SIMILAR DOCUMENTS:

Clarification of various requirements is based on the nationally recognized standards "Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities, 2010 Edition" by the Facility Guidelines Institute with assistance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

STATEMENT OF JUSTIFICATION FOR PRESCRIPTIVE STANDARDS:

The regulations do not mandate the use of technologies, equipment or prescriptive standard.

CONSIDERATION OF REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

There are no alternatives for consideration.

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.