

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF CODES AND STANDARDS**

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*** ADDENDUM ***

The following Item #4 regarding Section 1207 “Sound Transmission”, which was inadvertently omitted from rulemaking documents posted on the California Building Standards Commission’s website, is submitted for review and consideration.

**EXPRESS TERMS FOR PROPOSED BUILDING STANDARDS
REGARDING THE AMENDMENT OF THE 2013 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PART 2
(HCD 02/13)**

4. HCD proposes to amend Section 1207.1 “Scope”, Section 1207.2 “Air-borne sound”, Section 1207.3 “Structure-borne sound” and adopt Section 1207.4 “Allowable interior noise levels” in Chapter 12, as follows:

**SECTION 1207
SOUND TRANSMISSION**

1207.1 Scope. This section shall apply to common interior walls, partitions and floor/ceiling assemblies between adjacent dwelling units and sleeping units or between dwelling units and sleeping units and adjacent public areas such as halls, corridors, stairs or service areas.

1207.2 Air-borne sound. Walls, partitions and floor/ceiling assemblies separating dwelling units and sleeping units from each other or from public or service areas shall have a sound transmission class (STC) of not less than 50 (45 if field tested) for air-borne noise when tested in accordance with ASTM E 90. Penetrations or openings in construction assemblies for piping; electrical devices; recessed cabinets; bathtubs; soffits; or heating, ventilating or exhaust ducts shall be sealed, lined, insulated or otherwise treated to maintain the required ratings. This requirement shall not apply to dwelling-unit entrance doors; however, such doors shall be tight fitting to the frame and sill.

1207.2.1 Masonry. The sound transmission class of concrete masonry and clay masonry assemblies shall be calculated in accordance with TMS 0302 or determined through testing in accordance with ASTM E 90.
(No change to text.)

1207.3 Structure-borne sound. Floor/ceiling assemblies between dwelling units and sleeping units or between a dwelling unit or sleeping unit and a public or service area within the structure shall have an impact insulation class (IIC) rating of not less than 50 (45 if field tested) when tested in accordance with ASTM E 492.

Exception: *Impact sound insulation is not required for floor-ceiling assemblies over nonhabitable rooms or spaces not designed to be occupied, such as garages, mechanical rooms or storage areas.*

1207.4 Allowable interior noise levels. *Interior noise levels attributable to exterior sources shall not exceed 45 dB in any habitable room. The noise metric shall be either the day-night average sound level (Ldn) or the community noise equivalent level (CNEL), consistent with the noise element of the local general plan.*

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 17040, 17050, 17920.9, 17921, 17921.3, 17921.6, 17921.10, 17922, 17922.6, 17922.12, 17927, 17928, 17959.6, 18300, 18552, 18554, 18620, 18630, 18640, 18670, 18690, 18691, 18865, 18871.3, 18871.4, 18873, 18873.1, 18873.2, 18873.3, 18873.4, 18873.5, 18938.3, 18944.11 and 19990; and Government Code Section 12955.1.

Reference: Health and Safety Code Sections 17000 through 17062.5, 17910 through 17995.5, 18200 through 18700, 18860 through 18874, and 19960 through 19997; and Government Code Sections 12955.1 and 12955.1.1.

Rationale: HCD proposes to amend the above referenced Sections 1207, 1207.1, 1207.2 and 1207.3. HCD also proposes to adopt new Section 1207.4, requiring interior noise levels attributable to exterior sources not to exceed 45 dB in any habitable room. An exception is added to Section 1207.3, which exempts floor-ceiling assemblies over nonhabitable rooms or spaces from compliance with the requirements for impact sound insulation. The proposed amendments were part of Section 1207 in the 2010 CBC, but are not part of the model code language adopted by HCD during the 2012 Triennial Code Adoption Cycle. In addition, HCD proposes to add references to “sleeping units” in Sections 1207.1, 1207.2 and 1207.3, to clarify that Section 1207 applies to both dwelling units (apartments and condominiums) and sleeping units (hotels/motel rooms, dormitories, etc.). This proposal is consistent with the amendments to the 2015 International Building Code (model code), which will be considered for adoption as the 2016 CBC.

All proposed modifications in Section 1207 are in response to comments received from stakeholders expressing a concern that the adopted model code language, in part, reduces the requirements for sound transmission control in California. HCD never intended to reduce the noise standards in California and believes that the model code does not provide less restrictive requirements. However, to provide more clarity, HCD proposes to amend the model code language in Section 1207.

During the 2012 Triennial Code Adoption Cycle, HCD was challenged by stakeholders to repeal amendments in the California Building Code, which are covered in the model code or that duplicate other laws and/or regulations. After evaluation of all existing California amendments, HCD believed that Section 1207 was one of the unnecessary amendments. As a result, HCD proposed to repeal the California amendments related to sound transmission (Sections 1207.1 through 1207.13), and adopt Section 1207 from the 2012 International Building Code. This proposal was supported by the building industry and enforcing officials, and was approved by the Building Standards Commission without opposition.

The sound transmission requirements have been included in the California Building Code since 1974. These requirements implement Health and Safety Code Sections 17922.6 and 17922.7, which direct the Office of Noise Control in coordination with HCD to adopt regulations that establish noise insulation levels for hotels, motels, apartment houses, and dwellings other than detached single-family dwellings. However, HCD determined that most of the measures are currently covered by referenced standards or other federal, state or local agencies regulations (EPA, Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Highway Administration, California Department of Transportation, California Environmental Quality Act, the noise element in local general plans, local noise ordinances, etc.), and do not need to be duplicated in the California Building Code. HCD also believed that the referenced standards were outdated or superseded by more current standards, and needed to be updated. In addition, the agency mandated to adopt and amend regulations related to noise insulation was the Office of Noise Control, which no longer exists.