

SFM 03/07 

April 30, 2008

The Honorable Rosario Marin  
Chair, California Building Standards Commission  
2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 130  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
Fax: 916-263-0959

Re: Express Terms for Proposed Building Standards of the Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM) Regarding the 2007 California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 9

Dear Secretary Marin:

We are writing in support of the L Occupancy provision included in the Express Terms being proposed by the State Fire Marshall (SFM). Roche Molecular Diagnostics, headquartered in Pleasanton, employs more than 1,000 people and is a business area of Roche in Basel, Switzerland. We develop and manufacture innovative molecular diagnostic tests that help safeguard the blood supply and help doctors diagnose and monitor diseases in the areas of virology, microbiology, genomics and oncology.

We strongly believe the L-Occupancy provides important controls and safety provisions for any research and development laboratory containing hazardous materials in the State of California. The current codes developed by the International Code Council (ICC) will not support the facilities demands our industry anticipates. Approval of the L-Occupancy provision is critical to the ongoing growth and development of our industry in California.

The life sciences industry is a quickly evolving industry and requires a broad range of biological and chemical work to be performed in a laboratory environment. This work is very similar to work being conducted in university laboratories. Therefore, clarifying and codifying the L-Occupancy in the 2007 California Building Code for use by any such research and development laboratory will ensure that all such facilities be developed with the same controls and safety provisions.

We believe that the State Fire Marshall acted within the scope of her authority to propose these essential code amendments. The State is well served by the work the State Fire Marshall has done in ensuring that all laboratory facilities throughout the State of California are built to the same safe standards. The codes being proposed are the result of an extensive and inclusive process created by the State Fire Marshall's Office. This was a constructive process that has addressed all the issues and included representatives of industry and regulatory organizations from across the State.

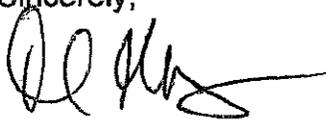
Roche Molecular  
Systems, Inc.

4300 Hacienda Drive  
PO Box 9002  
Pleasanton, California 94588-0900  
USA

State Fire Marshall Kate Dargan, Chief Tonya Hoover and their staff should be thanked for their leadership in this important endeavor. Other states with significant industry presences are examining these codes and looking to adopt some of the codes being discussed.

We heartily endorse these Express Terms as they serve to clarify the requirements for any research and development laboratories and enhance the safety measures and controls that will ensure safe operations. We ask that these measures be approved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. O'Day", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel O'Day  
President and CEO  
Roche Molecular Systems, Inc.