

SFM 03/07

JOANNE HAYES-WHITE  
CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

GAVIN NEWSOM  
MAYOR



**SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

April 24, 2008

California Building Standards Commission  
2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 130  
Sacramento, CA 95833

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

RECEIVED  
2008 APR 29 A 5b  
CALIFORNIA BUILDING  
STANDARDS COMMISSION

Honorable Commissioners:

The purpose of this letter is to convey our support of the California State Fire Marshal's proposed building standards package pertaining to Group L Occupancies (laboratories). The proposed requirements are needed because they specify the safety features necessary for research and development laboratories of the growing biotech industry as well as educational facilities. Additionally, the changes clarify that the regulations are to be applied equally to all laboratories in this category, regardless of whether they are owned by the State or private corporations. These changes will help eliminate confusion and inconsistency in the application of code enforcement across the State.

We wish to commend Chiefs Kate Dargan and Tonya Hoover in their leadership on this issue. They recognized a problem, brought various entities together to discuss the issues, and proposed a solution that represents what we believe is a reasonable and safe standard of care for laboratories. We urge you to adopt the Express Terms as submitted.

Sincerely,

Joanne Hayes-White  
Chief of Department

Barbara A. Schultheis  
Assistant Deputy Chief, Fire Marshal

cc: Mayor Gavin Newsom