

**INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS
FOR PROPOSED BUILDING STANDARDS
OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
REGARDING THE 2025 CALIFORNIA REFERENCED STANDARDS CODE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PART 12
(SFM 07/24)**

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

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(1) requires a statement of specific purpose of each adoption, amendment, or repeal and the problem the agency intends to address and the rationale for the determination by the agency that each adoption, amendment, or repeal is reasonably necessary to carry out the purpose and address the problem for which it is proposed. The statement shall enumerate the benefits anticipated from the regulatory action, including the benefits or goals provided in the authorizing statute.

ITEM 1

Chapter 12 Cross Reference Table, Chapter 12-3 Releasing Systems For Security Bars In Dwellings, Chapter 12-4-1 Stage And Platforms, Chapter 12-7-1 Fire Resistive Standards, Chapter 12-7-3 Fire Resistive Standards Fire Testing Furnaces, Chapter 12-7-4 Fire Resistive Standards Fire Door Assembly Tests, Chapter 12-7-5 Fire Resistive Standards Interior Finish of Decorative Material, Chapter 12-7A Materials and Construction Methods for Exterior Wildfire Exposure, Chapter 12-8-1 Fire-Resistive Standards For Fire Protection, Appendix 12-8-1A Calculation of the Total Rate of Heat and Carbon Monoxide or Carbon Dioxide Production, Appendix 12-8-1B Guide to Mounting Techniques for Wall and Ceiling Interior Finish Material, Chapter 12-10-1 Exits. Power-Operated Exit Doors, Chapter 12-10-2 Exits. Single Point Latching or Locking Devices, Chapter 12-10-3 Exits. Emergency Exit and Panic Hardware, Chapter 12-13 Standards for Insulating Material, Chapter 12-71 Air Filters, Chapter 12-72-1 Protective Signaling Systems, standard test procedures, Chapter 12-72-2 Protective Signaling Systems. Single and multiple-station fire alarm devices mechanically operated type, Chapter 12-72-3 Protective signaling systems. Smoke detectors, combustion products type.

The SFM proposes to maintain the Standards contained in Part 12 of the California Referenced Standards Code for the 2025 edition of the California Referenced Standards Code without any further amendment.

CAC Recommendation:

[Enter CAC recommendation(s), if any]

Agency Response:

[Enter the agency's response to CAC recommendation(s)]

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

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(3) requires identification of each technical, theoretical, and empirical study, report, or similar document, if any, upon which the agency relies in proposing the regulation(s).

The SFM did not rely on any technical, theoretical, or empirical study, report, or similar documents outside of those contained in this rulemaking in proposing that CBSC adopt the 2025 California Referenced Standards Code as a reference standard for the placement of existing SFM regulatory amendments from 2022 California Referenced Standards Code for the California Building Standards Codes.

STATEMENT OF JUSTIFICATION FOR PRESCRIPTIVE STANDARDS

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(1) requires a statement of the reasons why an agency believes any mandates for specific technologies or equipment, or prescriptive standards are required.

The SFM believes that the adoption of the existing provisions is offered in both a prescriptive and performance base. The nature and format of the existing provisions allow for both methods, the following is a general overview of the existing provisions proposed to be adopted:

- This comprehensive referenced standards code establishes minimum regulations for fire prevention and fire protection systems using prescriptive and performance-related provisions. It is founded on broad-based principles that make possible the use of new materials and new system designs.
- This code is founded on principles intended to establish provisions consistent with the scope of a building and fire code that adequately protects public health, safety, and welfare; provisions that do not unnecessarily increase construction costs; provisions that do not restrict the use of new materials, products or methods of construction; and provisions that do not give preferential treatment to types or classes of materials, products or methods of construction.

CONSIDERATION OF REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(4)(A) requires a description of reasonable alternatives to the regulation and the agency's reasons for rejecting those alternatives. In the case of a regulation that would mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment or prescribe specific actions or procedures, the imposition of performance standards shall be considered as an alternate. It is not the intent of this paragraph to require the agency to artificially construct alternatives or describe unreasonable alternatives.

The SFM has determined that no alternative considered would be less burdensome and equally effective in carrying out the purpose for which the regulation is proposed than the proposed adoption of existing regulations. Therefore, there are no alternatives available to the SFM regarding the proposed adoption of this code.

REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES THE AGENCY HAS IDENTIFIED THAT WOULD LESSEN ANY ADVERSE IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESS

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(4)(B) requires a description of any reasonable

alternatives that have been identified or that have otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the agency that would lessen any adverse impact on small business.

The SFM has determined that no alternative considered would lessen any adverse impact on small businesses. The regulations proposed will have no adverse impact on small businesses since they are equivalent to current requirements in the Code. Therefore, there are no alternatives available to the SFM regarding the proposed adoption of this code.

FACTS, EVIDENCE, DOCUMENTS, TESTIMONY, OR OTHER EVIDENCE OF NO SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON BUSINESS

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(5)(A) requires the facts, evidence, documents, testimony, or other evidence on which the agency relies to support an initial determination that the action will not have a significant adverse economic impact on business.

The SFM has determined that this proposed action will not have a significant adverse economic impact on business. The regulations proposed will have no overall cost impact on business since they are equivalent to current requirements in the Code. Therefore, there are no other facts, evidence, documents, testimony, or other evidence on which the SFM relies to support this rulemaking.

ASSESSMENT OF EFFECT OF REGULATIONS UPON JOBS AND BUSINESS EXPANSION, ELIMINATION OR CREATION

Government Code Sections 11346.2(b)(2) and 11346.3(b)(1)

SFM has assessed whether and to what extent this proposal will affect the following:

- A. The creation or elimination of jobs within the State of California.**
These regulations will not affect the creation, or cause elimination, of jobs within the State of California.
- B. The creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses within the State of California.**
These regulations will not affect the creation, or elimination, of new or existing businesses within the State of California.
- C. The expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California.**
These regulations will not affect the expansion of business currently doing business within the State of California.
- D. The benefits of the regulation to the health and welfare of California residents, worker safety, and the state's environment.**
This proposed action will carry forward minimum existing building standards, which will continue to provide protection of public health and safety, worker safety, and the environment.

ESTIMATED COST OF COMPLIANCE, ESTIMATED POTENTIAL BENEFITS, AND RELATED ASSUMPTIONS USED FOR BUILDING STANDARDS

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(5)(B)(i) states if a proposed regulation is a building standard, the initial statement of reasons shall include the estimated cost of compliance,

the estimated potential benefits, and the related assumptions used to determine the estimates.

The SFM estimates that there will be no additional cost or savings with the adoption of this regulation. This proposed action carries forward existing provisions from the 2022 California Referenced Standards Code without amendment.

DUPLICATION OR CONFLICTS WITH FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(6) requires a department, board, or commission within the Environmental Protection Agency, the Resources Agency, or the Office of the State Fire Marshal to describe its efforts, in connection with a proposed rulemaking action, to avoid unnecessary duplication or conflicts with federal regulations contained in the Code of Federal Regulations addressing the same issues. These agencies may adopt regulations different from these federal regulations upon a finding of one or more of the following justifications: (A) The differing state regulations are authorized by law and/or (B) The cost of differing state regulations is justified by the benefit to human health, public safety, public welfare, or the environment.

The SFM has determined that this proposed rulemaking action does not duplicate or conflict with federal regulations.