APPROVED BY THE CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 26, 2025

# ADDENDUM TO FINAL EXPRESS TERMS AND RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED BUILDING STANDARDS OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL REGARDING THE 2025 CALIFORNIA WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE CODE, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PART 7 (SFM 08/24)

The state agency shall draft the regulations in plain, straightforward language, avoiding technical terms as much as possible and using a coherent and easily readable style. The agency shall draft the regulation in plain English. A notation shall follow the express terms of each regulation listing the specific statutes authorizing the adoption and listing specific statutes being implemented, interpreted, or made specific (Government Code Section 11346.2(a)(1)).

Approve as amended a proposed provision, as requested by the state agency. No modification shall be made that materially alters a requirement, right, responsibility, condition or prescription in the text made available to the public for comment in accordance with this chapter. The proposing agency shall justify the modification pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 18930 in an amended justification consistent with the approval action submitted to the Commission within 15 days. Failure to submit the amended justification within that time is cause for disapproval. (Section 1-417(a)4 of the California Administrative Code, Part 1 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations).

If using assistive technology, please adjust your settings to recognize underline, strikeout, italic and ellipsis.

## LEGEND for EXPRESS TERMS (Based on model codes - Parts 2, 2.5, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10)

* Model Code language appears upright
* Existing California amendments appear in *italic*
* Amended model code or new California amendments appear *underlined & italic*
* Repealed model code language appears ~~upright and in strikeout~~
* Repealed California amendments appear in *~~italic and strikeout~~*
* Ellipses (...) indicate existing text remains unchanged

## ADDENDUM to FINAL EXPRESS TERMS and RATIONALE

### ITEM 5-5 Chapter 5 Special Building Construction Regulations, Sections 503 through 504.1

[In this FET addendum, SFM proposes to show additional sections relocated from the California Building Code, Chapter 7A to the California Wildland-Urban Interface Code.]

**SECTION 503 IGNITION-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIAL**

…

[No addendum changes proposed in Section 503.2.]

***~~703A.1 General~~ 503.3 Standards of quality.*** *Building material, systems, assemblies and methods of construction ~~used in this chapter~~ shall be tested in accordance with ~~Section 703A~~ the standards specified in Chapter 5.*

***~~703A.2~~ 503.3.1 Qualification by testing.*** *Material and material assemblies tested in accordance with the requirements of Section ~~703A~~ 503 shall be accepted for use when the results and conditions of those tests are met. Product evaluation testing of material and material assemblies shall be approved or listed by the State Fire Marshal or identified in a current report issued by an approved agency.*

***~~703A.3~~ 503.3.2 Approved agency.*** *Product evaluation testing shall be performed by an approved agency in accordance with Section ~~1702~~ 1703 of the California Building Code. The scope of accreditation for the approved agency shall include building product compliance with this code.*

***~~703A.4~~ 503.3.3 Labeling.*** *Material and material assemblies tested in accordance with the referenced standards shall bear an identification label showing the fire test results. That identification label shall be issued by a testing and/or inspecting agency approved by the State Fire Marshal.*

1. *Identification mark of the approved testing and/or inspecting agency.*
2. *Contact and identification information of the manufacturer.*
3. *Model number or identification of the product or material.*
4. *Pre-test weathering specified in this chapter.*
5. *Compliance standard as described under Section ~~703A.7~~ Chapter 7.*

***~~703A.5.2.2~~ 503.3.4 Fire-retardant-treated wood shingles and shakes.*** *Fire-retardant-treated wood shingles and shakes shall be approved and listed by the State Fire Marshal in accordance with Section 208(c), Title 19 California Code of Regulations.*

**…**

[No addendum changes proposed in Section 504.]

**Rationale:** These sections were intended to be relocated from Chapter 7A of Part 2 of the California Building Code and were mistakenly left out.

These sections are essential to keep existing requirements for materials used to construct buildings and structures in the wildland-urban interface area to be approved or listed by the State Fire Marshal. The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has compiled a Wildland Urban-Interface product handbook that is available on the OSFM website. The handbook is to provide homeowners, building authorities, architectural and engineering communities, contractors, and the fire service with a reliable and readily available source of information on WUI products.

**Notation:**

Authority: Health and Safety Code Sections 1250, 1502, 1568.02, 1569.72 - 1569.78, 1597.44 - 1597.65, 13108, 13108.5, 13114, 13143, 13143.2, 13143.6, 13145, 13146, 13211, 16022.5, 17921, 18928, 18949.2, 25500 through 25545; Government Code Sections 51176, 51177, 51178, 51179 and 51189; Public Education Code 17074.50; Public Resources Code Sections 4201 through 4204.

Reference(s): Health and Safety Code Sections 13108, 13108.5, 13113, 13113.5, 13114, 13132, 13132.7, 13133, 13135, 13143, 13143.1, 13143.2, 13143.6, 13143.9, 13145, 13146, 13210, 13211, 16022.5, 17921.

The State Fire Marshal requests the Commission to approve this item as amended in order to satisfy Health and Safety Code Section(s) **18930(a)(6):** *The proposed building standards are not unnecessarily ambiguous or vague, in whole or in part.*

The SFM finds that the proposed amendments are in the best interest of protecting life and property against fire and panic in occupancies addressed in the 2025 California Building Standards Code.

The SFM finds that these proposed building standards are necessary for maintaining the highest level of safety for the construction, alteration, movement, enlargement, replacement, repair, equipment, use and occupancy, location, maintenance, removal, and demolition of buildings or structures. The SFM proposes, where necessary, to ensure that the regulations of the California Building Standards Code establish and or maintain minimum requirements for the prevention of fire and for the protection of life and property and to provide safety to firefighters and emergency responders during emergency operations, against fire and panic in accordance with Health and Safety Code 13100.1 that foster, promote, and develop ways and means of protecting life and property against fire and panic.

### ITEM 5-9 Chapter 5 Special Building Construction Regulations, Sections 504.5 through 504.5.2.1

[In this FET addendum, SFM proposes to not delete the model code language “on the exterior side” which is proposed for deletion in the FET.]

**504.5 Exterior walls.** Exterior walls of buildings or structures shall be constructed with one *or more* of the following methods, *unless they are covered with an exterior wall covering complying with Sections 504.5.2 and 504.5.2.1*:

1. ~~Materials approved for not less than~~ 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction on the exterior side.
2. …

[No addendum changes proposed in the rest of ITEM 5-9.]

**Rationale:** The SFM has determined that for clarity, the requirement for exterior walls listed in item 1 will be better understood with the complete sentence including the words “on the exterior side.” The words were previously shown as stricken out. Still, there seemed to be discussion or confusion that a 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction could be used on the interior side of the exterior wall, which was not the intent.

**Notation:**

Authority: Health and Safety Code Sections 1250, 1502, 1568.02, 1569.72 - 1569.78, 1597.44 - 1597.65, 13108, 13108.5, 13114, 13143, 13143.2, 13143.6, 13145, 13146, 13211, 16022.5, 17921, 18928, 18949.2, 25500 through 25545; Government Code Sections 51176, 51177, 51178, 51179 and 51189; Public Education Code 17074.50; Public Resources Code Sections 4201 through 4204.

Reference(s): Health and Safety Code Sections 13108, 13108.5, 13113, 13113.5, 13114, 13132, 13132.7, 13133, 13135, 13143, 13143.1, 13143.2, 13143.6, 13143.9, 13145, 13146, 13210, 13211, 16022.5, 17921.

The State Fire Marshal requests the Commission to approve this item as amended, in order to satisfy Health and Safety Code Section **18930(a)(6):** *The proposed building standards are not unnecessarily ambiguous or vague, in whole or in part.*