

**INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS
FOR PROPOSED BUILDING STANDARDS
OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
REGARDING THE 2025 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PART 2
(SFM 04/24)**

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 the specific purpose of each adoption, amendment, or repeal of 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.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM) proposes to adopt the 2024 edition of the International Building Code (IBC) into the 2025 edition of the California Building Code (CBC). SFM further proposes to:

Repeal the adoption by reference of the 2021 International Building Code and incorporate and adopt by reference in its place the 2024 International Building Code for application and effectiveness in the 2025 California Building Code.

Repeal certain amendments to the 2021 International Building Code and/or California Building Standards not addressed by the model code that is no longer necessary.

Adopt new building standards or necessary amendments to the 2024 International Building Code that address inadequacies of the 2021 International Building Code as they pertain to California laws.

Bring forward previously existing California building standards or amendments, which represent no change in their effect from the 2022 California Building Standards Code.

Codify non-substantive editorial and formatting amendments from the format based upon the 2021 International Building Code to the format of the 2024 International Building Code.

ITEM 1

Chapter 1, SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION

SFM proposes to only adopt Sections 101.4.8, 105.2, 105.2.1-105.2.2, 105.3 – 105.3.1, 105.4, 105.6 – 105.7, 106.1– 106.3, 107.1 – 107.3, 107.4, 107.5, 108.1 – 108.4, 110.1 – 110.3, 110.3.4 – 110.3.7, 110.3.9 – 110.3.11, 110.4 – 110.6, 111.1– 111.4, 112, 114.1 – 114.2, 115 and 116 contained in the 2024 IBC Chapter 1 and bring forward existing amendments in Sections 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.10, 1.11, 1.12, from the 2022 CBC for adoption into the 2025 CBC with modifications.

ITEM 1-1

Section 1.1.1 Title

The SFM is proposing to carry forward the existing provisions in Sections 1.1.1 through 1.1.12 and modify to replace the 2021 International Building Code with the current model code edition 2024 International Building Code.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 1-2

Section 1.11.2.4 Request for alternate means of protection

SFM proposes to carry forward the existing California provisions in Sections 1.11 through 1.11.11, with modification to the following existing amendment to update the reference pointer to Title 19.

SFM proposes to update the reference pointer to Title 19 due to the following action. Both the California Accidental Release Prevention and Hazardous Materials Business Plan programs are under the oversight of CalEPA (AB 148, Stats. 2021). These programs were previously under CalOES. CalEPA did a section 100 rulemaking earlier this year. The regulations for these two programs were previously in CCR Title 19, Division 2 (CalOES), but are now located in CCR Title 19, Division 5 (CalEPA). OAL approved the rulemaking on March 6, 2024, and the updates to Title 19 were also effective March 6, 2024. No cost impact.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 1-3

Section 101.4.8 Wildland-Urban Interface

The SFM proposes a new section 101.4.8 as a California amendment to provide reference to Part 7, California Wildland Urban Interface Code. There is no intended change in regulatory effect.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 1-4

Section 105.5.1 Expiration.

The SFM proposes to co-adopt existing BSC amendment about permit expiration.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 2

Chapter 2 Definitions

The SFM proposes to adopt Chapter 2, carry forward the existing amendments with modifications, and repeal all definitions regarding Chapter 7A. The Chapter 7A provisions have been relocated to California Codes and Regulations Title 24, Part 7.

ITEM 2-1

CARE SUITE

Withdrawn

CAC Recommendation:

Further Study Required under criteria #6. OSHPD and SFM to coordinate on whether to withdraw the proposed amendment.

Agency Response:

SFM is withdrawing item 2-1, based on coordination with OSHPD, that the previously proposed amendment would not apply to anything other than I-2.

ITEM 2-2

Definitions related to Chapter 7A

The SFM proposes to repeal all definitions with reference to Chapter 7A. These provisions have been relocated to California Codes and Regulations Title 24, Part 7, California Wildland-Urban Interface Code.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 2-3

FIRE-RETARDANT-TREATED WOOD

The SFM proposes to repeal the California amendment for fire-retardant-treated wood

and adopt model code. The California amendment that references Section 2303.2 is no longer needed as both definitions are currently printed in the 2022 California Building Code. Section 2303.2 still exists in the 2024 IBC. There is no regulatory change.

CAC Recommendation:

Not Applicable

Agency Response:

This item was not heard at the Building, Fire, Other – Code Advisory Committee Hearings. The proposal is editorial in nature and has no regulatory effect.

ITEM 3

Chapter 3 Occupancy Classification and Use

The SFM proposes to adopt Chapter 3 and carry forward the existing amendments with modifications as shown below.

ITEM 3-0

Section 305.2 Group E, child-care facilities.

The SFM proposes to amend the exception to Group E child-care facilities, allowing them to operate when they comply with special requirements.

The SFM, in response to recent legislative proposals, intends to amend the exception to Group E child-care facilities to include those providing care for 6-100 children under 36 months of age. This amendment, aimed at expanding child-care services and upholding fire and life safety practices, complies with proposed AB 176 - Budget Act of 2023 or SB 176 – Education Finance: Education Omnibus Trailer Bill, which contains language for child-care facilities. If either bill passes, child-care changes will become law, establishing legislation incorporating language from the 2019 CBC and providing clarification for AHJs. The goal is to maintain legal compliance and foster the development of child-care services until the SFM can create and adopt new regulations through the consensus workgroup process. However, if both AB 176 and SB 176 fail to pass before the final hearing with the California Building Standards Commission, the SFM will withdraw this proposal.

CAC Recommendation:

Not Applicable

Agency Response:

Post CAC: New item added and not heard at BFO-CAC. See rationale statement above. This Item is associated with SFM 06/24, Part 9, Item 2-27.1.

ITEM 3-1

Section 305.2.1 Within places of religious worship.

The SFM proposes to correct an omission from the 2021 Triennial cycle and replace

the term “daycare” with “child-care”. During 2021 cycle, the term “daycare” was replaced with “child-care” in other locations, but this instance was missed. Eliminating inconsistencies between applicable codes and standards assists with the interpretation, understanding, and compliance of building code requirements.

The Department of Social Services has for approximately 10 years been transitioning from the term Day Care to Child Care. The profession of childcare has evolved into a more inclusive type of care that can include early learning and child development. The caring aspect of the facilities is more emphasized. The workgroup is including the definition to be more consistent between regulations.

CAC Recommendation:

Approved

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 3-1.1

Table 307.1(1) Maximum Allowable Quantity Per Control Area of Hazardous Materials Posing a Physical Hazard.

SFM proposes to carry forward existing amendments, repeal and replace California amendments with model code language and further modify. There is no regulatory effect.

CAC Recommendation:

Not Applicable

Agency Response:

This item was not heard at the BFO CAC. Item “c” is proposed to be deleted from model code to correlate with the existing California amendment to delete Group B higher education laboratory occupancies Section 428 of this code and Chapter 38 of the International Fire Code. California has Group L - Laboratory provisions that currently exist.

ITEM 3-1.2

Section 307.4 High-Hazard Group H-2; Section 307.5 High-Hazard Group H-3.

SFM proposes to repeal and replace California amendments with model code language. There is no regulatory effect.

CAC Recommendation:

Not Applicable

Agency Response:

This item was not heard at the BFO CAC. Repeal and replace with model code. Carry forward existing California amendments. There is no regulatory effect.

ITEM 3-1.3

Section 308.5.1 Classification as Group E. *Special provisions.*

The SFM proposes to adopt model code language for Section 308.5.1 with modification.

The SFM, in response to recent legislative proposals, intends to amend the exception to Group E child-care facilities to include those providing care for 6-100 children under 36 months of age. The proposal leverages the model code as a reliable consensus process product. This amendment, aimed at expanding child-care services and upholding fire and life safety practices, complies with proposed AB 176 - Budget Act of 2023 or SB 176 – Education Finance: Education Omnibus Trailer Bill, which contains language for child-care facilities. If either bill passes, child-care changes will become law, establishing legislation incorporating language from the 2019 CBC and providing clarification for AHJs. The goal is to maintain legal compliance and foster the development of child-care services until the SFM can create and adopt new regulations through the consensus workgroup process. However, if both AB 176 and SB 176 fail to pass before the final hearing with the California Building Standards Commission, the SFM will withdraw this proposal.

CAC Recommendation:

Not Applicable

Agency Response:

Post CAC: New item added and not heard at BFO-CAC. See rationale statement above. This Item is associated with SFM 06/24, Part 9, Item 2-27.2.

ITEM 3-1.4

Section 308.5.4 Six or fewer persons receiving care in a dwelling.

The SFM, in response to recent legislative proposals, intends to amend the exception to Group E child-care facilities to include those providing care for 6-100 children under 36 months of age. This amendment, aimed at expanding child-care services and upholding fire and life safety practices, complies with proposed AB 176 - Budget Act of 2023 or SB 176 – Education Finance: Education Omnibus Trailer Bill, which contains language for child-care facilities. If either bill passes, child-care changes will become law, establishing legislation incorporating language from the 2019 CBC and providing clarification for AHJs. The goal is to maintain legal compliance and foster the development of child-care services until the SFM can create and adopt new regulations through the consensus workgroup process. However, if both AB 176 and SB 176 fail to pass before the final hearing with the California Building Standards Commission, the SFM will withdraw this proposal.

CAC Recommendation:

Not Applicable

Agency Response:

Post CAC: New item added and not heard at BFO-CAC. See rationale statement above. This Item is associated with SFM 06/24, Part 9, Item 2-27.3.

ITEM 3-2

Section 310.4.2 Lodging houses.

The SFM proposes to correct the reference pointer in the California Residential Code for the requirement of sprinklers. This is an editorial correction.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4

Chapter 4 Special Detailed Requirements Based on Occupancy and Use

The SFM proposes to adopt Chapter 4, carry forward existing amendments with modifications shown below and add section 408.16.

ITEM 4-1

Section 403.2.1.1 Type of construction.

SFM proposes to carry forward the existing amendments to items 1 and 2 exceptions. The existing amendment deleting model code language “columns supporting floors” in item 1 exception, was not carried forward in the printing of 2022 CBC. This proposal will correct the printing error. As an existing amendment, there is no cost impact.

Eliminating inconsistencies between applicable codes and standards assists with the interpretation, understanding, and compliance of building code requirements. The SFM amendment should simplify the understanding of requirements and eliminate confusion related to the required protection of these uses.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-2

Sections 403.3.1 Number of sprinkler system risers and system design and 403.3.1.2 Buildings more than 420 feet in height

SFM proposes to incorporate an existing amendment for the requirements of a sprinkler system that shall be hydraulically designed from the 2022 California Building Code, Section 403.3.1. The model code cleaned up the requirements for the number of sprinkler risers. The intent of the SFM proposed new amendment will maintain the systems and risers shall be located in separate shafts and added the option for a combination standpipe system riser.

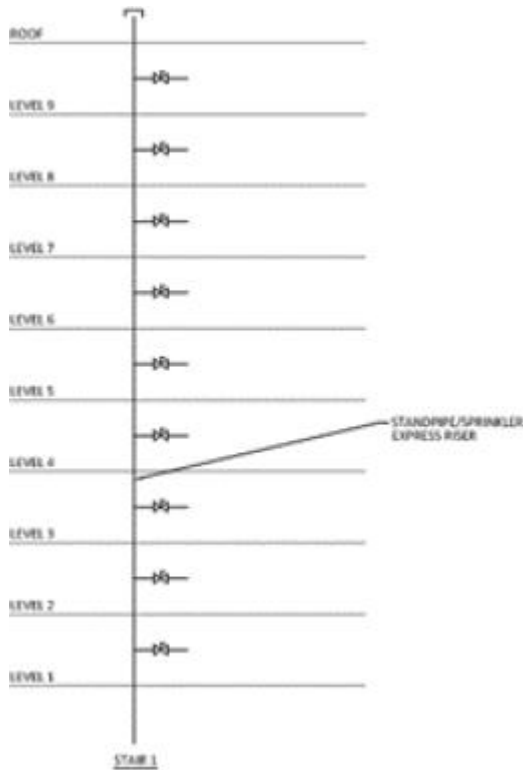
The model code change proposal was based on G57-21 which was heard by the International Code Action Committee for the 2024 edition of the International Building

and Fire Codes. The committee vote was 13-1 as submitted. The context and application of Sections 403.3.1 is not clear. This section contains multiple requirements which are somewhat convoluted as currently written. Use of the terminology “sprinkler system zone” can be interpreted in multiple ways. The most common application is that a sprinkler system zone relates to all sprinklers and piping downstream of a floor control valve assembly. The terminology sprinkler system zone refers to a vertical subsection of the overall building-wide sprinkler system. Sprinkler system zone refers to all sprinklers and piping on floors supplied within a single vertical water supply zone based on design pressure limitations.

The inclusion of the term standpipe identifies that combined sprinklers and standpipe risers as used commonly used in the industry and are permitted to be used by NFPA 14 to supply sprinkler systems within a vertical water supply zone. The diagrams included in Annex A of NFPA 14 have demonstrated this for many years. NFPA 14 Annex A uses the term “zone” which refers to the vertical loops limited by the maximum pressure of pumps, gravity tanks, and equipment working pressure but does not explicitly define a vertical water supply zone. NFPA 20 uses the term vertical fire protection zone which has similar if not identical meaning. Adding the terms standpipe and vertical water supply zones in this section will provide the needed clarification necessary for harmony between the requirements of the codes and referenced standards.

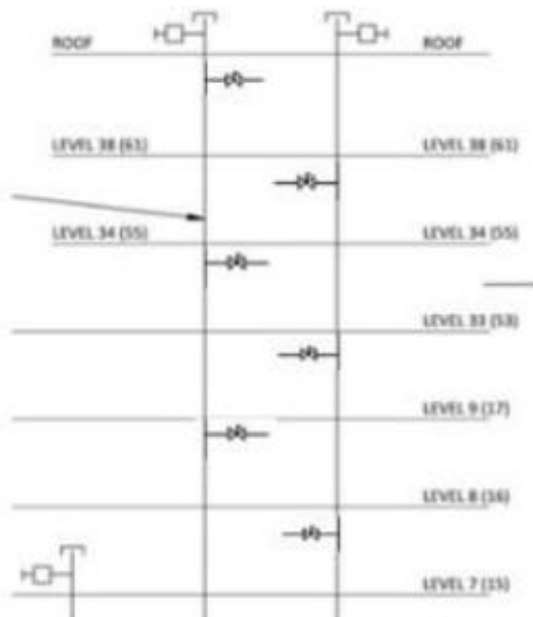
Section 403.3.1.2 clarifies that there are differences in requirements for buildings having a building height greater than 420 feet (128 m) and in Section 403.3.1.1 buildings having a building height less than 420 feet (128 m). The new sections explain that a single standpipe or sprinkler express riser can be used to supply all sprinkler systems within a vertical water supply zone. The requirements in Section 403.3.1.2 also give details that there are a minimum of two risers required in buildings having a building height greater than 420 feet (128 m). The inclusion of the requirement for sprinkler systems to be supplied from two risers is to limit the impact of a single-point failure of a standpipe or sprinkler express riser.

Figure 1 shows the configuration for a single vertical water supply zone in a building having a building height of less than 420 feet (128 m).



The change also clarifies that two standpipes or sprinkler express risers are needed to supply sprinkler systems in buildings having a building height greater than 420 ft.

Figure 2 shows the configuration for a building having a building height greater than 420 ft.



The code change proposal will decrease the cost of construction. Clarifying this section reduces construction costs and design time.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-3

Section 403.5.3 Stairway door operation.

The SFM is proposing to repeal the existing CA amendment as it is no longer needed because it is now stated in condition number 3.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-4

Section 404.12 Group I and R 2.1 occupancy means of egress.

The Office of The State Fire Marshal proposes an amendment to coordinate egress limitations through atriums with the requirements contained in National Fire Protection Association 101. The addition of treatment rooms clarifies that patient sleeping rooms and patient treatment rooms are not permitted to pass through the atrium for means of egress.

The proposed amendment aligns the California Building Code with the National Fire Protection Association 101 (NFPA 101). As a condition of participation with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), healthcare facilities must comply with CMS which includes aligning with the requirements of NFPA 101. CMS adopts by Federal regulation the 2012 edition of The National Fire Protection Association 101. This code change is to resolve conflicting requirements that can be a source of confusion for healthcare design professionals, owners, and code officials. Conflicting requirements are especially burdensome when owners are required to adhere to such applicable national standards.

There is no cost impact to construction.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-5

Section 406.9.2 Ventilation.

The SFM proposal corrects the CEC Article 625 section 1203 pointer reference in amended section 406.9.2 to align with the renumbering to 1202. Eliminating inconsistencies between applicable codes and standards assists with the interpretation, understanding, and compliance of building code requirements.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-6

Section 407.2 Corridor continuity and separation.

The SFM proposes to repeal and replace the existing amendment with model code.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-7

Section 407.4.4.1 Exit access through care suites

General Rationale for Section 407.4.4. The State Fire Marshal (SFM) in cooperation with the Office of Statewide Hospital Planning Department (OSHPD) proposed the following code changes to Section 407.4.4 and its subsections. Existing amendments being carried forward are shown for context.

As a condition of participation with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), healthcare facilities must comply with CMS which includes aligning with the requirements of NFPA 101. CMS adopts by Federal regulation the 2012 edition of The National Fire Protection Association 101. During prior code cycles, the SFM needed to amend the International Building Code (IBC) healthcare facilities model code language to better align with NFPA. Over the years the IBC has been amended to better align with NFPA 101. Therefore, the SFM can repeal California amendments and adopt model codes where applicable.

407.4.4 Group I-2 care suites The 2024 IBC renumbered the section references due to other changes in the subsections. The SFM proposed to adopt the renumbered changes.

407.4.4.1 Exit access through care suites Repeal SFM amendment since model code Section 407.4.4.3 includes this requirement.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-8

Section 407.4.4.2 Separation

SFM in coordination with OSHPD proposes to delete the existing amendments.

Carry forward the existing amendment to the first sentence that care suites shall be separated from other portions of the building, including other care suites by not less than a one-hour fire barrier. SFM proposes to repeal the second sentence since it is repetitive of the first sentence in the section.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-9

Section 407.4.4.3 Access to a corridor

SFM in coordination with OSHPD proposes to delete the existing amendments.

407.4.4.3 Access to corridor Adopt model language that clarifies movement in a care suite is limited to 100 feet of travel to a door leading to an exit corridor or a horizontal exit. This model code language was added to the 2021 International Building Code (IBC) but was not adopted by the SFM in the 2022 California Building Code. The SFM is proposing to adopt the model language for this code cycle. The 2021 IBC commentary reads; "In previous editions of the code, travel distance was controlled within suites by limiting the number of intervening rooms. The approach was confusing and led to inconsistent application of the care suite provisions. Travel distance within the suite is limited to 100 feet (30 480 mm) and is measured from the most remote point in the suite to the closest door to a corridor outside the suite or a horizontal exit."

Additionally, the existing SFM amendments are silent on the use of horizontal exits, however, they are allowed as an acceptable exit requirement, and the 2021 IBC language includes horizontal exits. NFPA 101 2012 through 2021 allows the primary exit to be through an exit access corridor or a horizontal exit.

The proposed code change adopts the model code to align with the travel distance within a care suite and the allowance of horizontal exits consistent with national reference standards and the model code. This code change allows for design flexibility while maintaining the minimum level of safety.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-10

Section 407.4.4.3.1 Sleeping Room

SFM in coordination with OSHPD proposes to modify section 407.4.4.3.1 by allowing the sleeping rooms to be limited to one intervening room.

Repeal the SFM amendment for one intervening room and replace it with a sleeping room to clarify that the movement shall be limited to one intervening room. As stated above the 100' limit applies to intervening rooms and therefore the SFM amendment is no longer necessary.

Carry forward the SFM amendment for two intervening rooms in Section 407.4.4.3.2 and its exception. The 2024 IBC is silent on travel distance through more than one intervening room and the SFM would like to maintain this clarity.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-11

Section 407.4.4.4 Reserved

SFM proposes to not adopt and not print the new 2024 IBC language regarding circulation paths. The model code language conflicts with care suite circulation path requirements, which in California are considered unrated corridors in I-2 occupancies, in accordance with Section 1020.1, and are required to be 96" in width per Section 1020.2. In addition, model code language conflicts with Chapter 12, Section 1224.4.7 adopted by OSHPD, which has additional allowances for corridor width reductions, and conflicts with NFPA 101-2012. Maintain numbering and name the section to Reserved.

Eliminating inconsistencies between applicable codes and standards assists with the interpretation, understanding, and compliance of building code requirements. The proposed code changes will not increase the cost of construction. The proposed code changes provide flexibility for design professionals and are consistent with national model standards and codes.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-12

Section 407.4.4.5.3 Travel distance

The SFM proposes to delete the California amendment 407.4.4.5.3 Travel distance since the adopted model code provides the same provisions in section 407.4.4.3. The proposed code change eliminates duplicative code language.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-13

Section 407.7 Automatic sprinkler system

The proposed SFM amendment is editorial and corrects flame to frames.

The proposed editorial changes the Arabic numeral 1 to the Roman numeral I is consistent with the terminology used in the current California Building Code Section 601 for Type IA construction. This section of code reflects Health and Safety Code Section 13113.

The SFM proposed change provides consistency and clarity in code language. Incomplete or incorrect information is a source of confusion for designers, owners and code officials. Completing such information and correcting such references assists with the interpretation and understanding of the provisions of the code.

There is no cost impact as the proposal is editorial.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-14

Section 407.11 Electrical Systems

The State Fire Marshal's proposed amendment reinstates a reference to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 99. This proposed amendment does not establish a new requirement and adopts the 2024 International Building Code language.

Prior versions of National Fire Protection Association 99 did not contain the necessary electrical requirements, so the SFM did not include this reference and relied on the California Electrical Code, based on the National Fire Protection Association 70. Current editions of NFPA 99 and the California Electrical Code are now more closely aligned. Reinstating the reference to NFPA 99 assists the design professions and code enforcers in applying applicable provisions of nationally recognized standards.

There is no cost impact.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-15

Section 408.9.1 Smoke Venting

The SFM I-3 Committee's windowless building task group proposes changes to the California Building Code (CBC) Section 408.9.1 language to help clarify the application and ensure that it is consistent with the original intent of the California amendment. These changes include adding I-3 Occupancy Condition #9, clarifying where venting is provided that such venting applies to each housing pod, and deleting CBC 408.9.1 Exceptions 3, 4, and 5.

From the original 2013 CBC Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) the task group understands that the original CBC 408.9.1 amendment applies windowless building requirements to overnight sleeping areas where inmates are locked in their cells. Specifically, these areas are the housing portions of I-3 occupancy conditions 3, 4, and 5.

When California introduced CBC 408.9.1 in the 2013 California Building Code (CBC), I-3 Condition #9 did not exist. Condition #9 was introduced in the mid-cycle revision to the 2016 CBC and CBC Section 408.9.1 was not updated to reflect this change. Condition #9 includes the use of buildings for correctional medical care and correctional mental health care and may have housing/sleeping areas. Therefore, the task group recommends adding Condition #9 to CBC Section 408.9.1 to be consistent with the original ISOR for CBC Section 408.9.1.

CBC 408.9.1 allows for smoke venting, and where windows, smoke vents, or doors are used, at least two must be provided and arranged to manually vent smoke in each smoke compartment. Recognizing that there may be multiple housing pods within a single smoke compartment and that there is no requirement for smoke partitions or smoke barriers to separate housing pods, the task group recommends that the venting should apply to each housing pod and not just the greater smoke compartment. This ensures that each housing pod can vent smoke to the exterior and minimize smoke spread to adjacent housing pods within the same smoke compartment. The task group recommends that the term "smoke compartment" within the 3rd sentence of 408.9.1 be deleted and replaced with "housing pod" instead. However, the term "smoke compartment" within the first sentence must remain since the original intent is to provide a tenable environment for exiting from the smoke compartment, which may include multiple housing pods.

The task group recommends deleting Exceptions #3 and #4 for courtroom holding areas/facilities since these facilities are not designed as housing. Courtroom holding facilities are defined in the building code as, "A room, cell, cell complex or building for the confinement of persons for a court appearance for a period not to exceed 12 hours." Furthermore, Housing Unit is already defined as, "...intended to lodge inmates on a 24-hour basis where accommodations are provided for sleeping and other inmate support areas." Therefore, by definition, courtroom holding facilities are not housing areas, nor do they meet the definition of a Housing Unit or Housing Pod, and CBC 408.9.1 does not apply. These exceptions confuse and may be misapplied.

Lastly, the task group recommends deleting Exception #5 to remove redundancy requirements with Exception #1 and CBC 408.9.1. The difference between Exception

#1 and #5 is that #5 requires a Section 909 pressurization smoke control system in each housing unit. However, the charging language of Section 408.9.1 already states that a Section 909 engineered smoke control system is an acceptable method for smoke venting and Exception #5 requires a Section 909 pressurization method smoke control system as well as additional requirements beyond the charging language, which confuses as to the application of Exception #5.

The SFM amendment should simplify the understanding of requirements and eliminate confusion related to the requirements for I-3 windowless buildings.

The code change proposal is editorial in nature and will have no impact on the cost of construction.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-16

Section 408.13 Windows

The SFM proposes the modification to update information referenced per the consensus by the I-3 task group. The specific purpose of the modification is to repeal the current reference note “ASTM F1233-98”, which is outdated. And replace it with ASTM F-1915. The older ASTM was a physical attack standard, which has been replaced with consistent mechanical testing standards. This change aims to update the industry standard for testing security glazing.

The problem the code change is resolving is to remove the CDCR Appendix H glazing standard since current standards all reference ASTM F-1915.

The code change proposal is editorial in nature and will have no impact on the cost of construction.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-17

Section 408.16 Vehicle Sallyports

The SFM is proposing section 408.16 amendments per the following reasoning determined by the I-3 task group.

A locked vehicle sallyport must be classified as an I-3 occupancy, the same as the jail, prison, juvenile hall, or courthouse facility it serves. Because it is the same occupancy, a fire barrier separation is not otherwise required by Section 508. The I-3 task group recognizes that a vehicle fire in an enclosed vehicle sallyport may represent a specific

risk to occupants in the adjacent spaces. Therefore, in the 2019 CBC, this task group introduced 508.2.4 Exception 4 and 508.3.3 Exception 3 which would clarify that separation is still required between vehicle sallyports and adjacent I-3 uses.

However, the language added to the 2019 CBC did not properly align with the intent of the task group. The intent was only to require separation when vehicle sallyports were enclosed with a solid roof that would trap fire smoke. The intent was never to require a separation when a vehicle sallyport was open or mostly open to the sky.

The proposed changes clarify the actual intent of the previous California Amendment. In addition, this change clarifies that solid roofs in a vehicle sallyport shall be fully sprinkled per NFPA 13.

The task group reviewed various scenarios and configurations of vehicle sallyports in this assessment. For vehicle sallyports open to the sky, these designs should be reviewed as if they were a fenced yard. This configuration represents no more risk than other vehicle parking located adjacent to a vehicle sallyport.

When analyzing vehicle sallyports with partial coverings (up to 50%), we recognized that per the CBC these facilities are Type I noncombustible construction, fully sprinklered, and would need ceilings over 10 feet above floor level to accommodate vehicles. The CBC would require that at least one exit from an adjacent building(s) egress away from the vehicle sallyport, and in most cases, no egress would be allowed into a covered sallyport. With a sprinklered roof covering of less than 50%, occupants could be evacuated away from the vehicle sallyport before fire and smoke resulted in a risk to life safety.

Vehicle sallyports that have a roof over more than 50% of the space would need to be separated from adjacent interior uses by 2-hour fire barriers, which is the intent of the previous California Amendment. In addition, if occupied spaces were located above the vehicle sallyport, a floor/ceiling assembly of at least 2-hour construction would be required by Table 705.5 Fire-Resistance Rating Requirements for Exterior Walls Based on Fire Separation Distance.

Note, this code change proposal should be considered along with the code change proposal for 508.2.4 and 508.3.3.

There should be no increase in building cost because the Office of State Fire Marshal has been applying the code section based on the intent of the 2019 CBC California Amendments. However, there has been a schedule impact during agency review because these requirements are not clear. These clarifications should streamline review of jail facilities which may result in some cost savings due to reduced escalation.

The SFM amendment should simplify the understanding of requirements and eliminate confusion related to the required protection of these uses.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-18

Section 414.2.5 Hazardous material in Group M display and storage areas and in Group S storage areas.

The SFM is proposing to repeal and replace existing amended with model code.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-19

Table 414.2.5 (3) Maximum Allowable Quantity of Low Buring Velocity (Low BV) Category 1B Flammable Gas in Group M and S Occupancies Per Control Area

The SFM is proposing to repeal and replace the existing amended Table 414.2.5(3) as shown below with model code Table 414.2.5.4.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-20

Section 414.2.5.4 Flammable gas

The SFM is proposing to repeal and replace existing amendments shown below with model code.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-21

Section 422.7 Domestic cooking

The State Fire Marshal, in cooperation with the Office of Statewide Hospital Planning Department (OSHDP), proposes an amendment to reinstate a 2022 California Building Code (CBC) provision, previously for I-2.1 occupancies that are now classified as B Ambulatory Care Facilities. During the 2021 Triennial Code Adoption Cycle, the I-2.1 were repealed, defaulting to the 2021 International Building Code for Occupancy Group B Ambulatory Care Facilities. Before this change, the amendments for domestic cooking applied to I-2.1. As such, the proposed amendment should not be considered as a new requirement since the amendment continues the same level of safety as the first edition of the 2022 CBC, before the supplement.

This SFM amendment is necessary to address a requirement that has been in place since the 2012 IBC/2013 California Building Code. Without the amendment, the B Ambulatory Care Facilities could have areas with domestic cooking equipment open to corridors that are required to be fire-resistance rated. The addition of the language, 'In fully sprinklered buildings' clarifies that only buildings that are fully sprinklered can install domestic cooking equipment per this code and addresses existing facilities that may not be fully sprinklered but propose a design that includes domestic cooking equipment. If a building is not fully sprinklered and is also B occupancy, Table 508.4 would otherwise not require a separation between a B Ambulatory Care Facility and a Group B occupancy.

The State Fire Marshal's proposed amendment is consistent with a similar provision in California Building Code Section 407 for I-2 facilities. Cooking fires are documented as being a leading cause of fires in healthcare facilities, per National Fire Protection Association.org/research. Maintaining separation between areas with domestic cooking equipment and adjacent areas adds a level of protection significant to the occupants of the space.

The omission of a long-standing existing provision is confusing for code enforcers, designers, and owners. The code change proposal is editorial in nature and will have no impact on the cost of construction.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-22

Section 435.8.3 Egress arrangements

The SFM proposes to modify the existing amendments to coordinate references to section 716.2.6 due to renumbering of model code revisions.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-23

Section 435.8.4 Corridors

The SFM proposes to modify the existing amendment to section 435.8.4.1 to coordinate pointer reference to section 1020.1 Corridors.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 4-24

Section 435.8.6 Stairways

The SFM proposes to modify the existing amendment to section 435.8.6.1 to coordinate pointer reference to section 1023 Interior Exit Stairways and Ramps.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 5

Chapter 5 General Building Heights and Areas

The SFM proposes to adopt Chapter 5 and carry forward the existing amendments with modifications.

ITEM 5-1

Section TABLE 504.3 ALLOWABLE BUILDING HEIGHT IN FEET ABOVE GRADE PLANE

The SFM proposes to reinstate the I-2 value “NP” provisions for Type IIIB and VB. The 2019 CBC shows these in upright font, but the 2018 IBC shows these values as III B-55 and V B-40. The CBC shows these values as IIIB-55 and VB-40. The 2019 CBC SFM amendments of I-2 “NP” value were erroneously shown as model text and were not carried forward in 2022 CBC. The SFM proposes the existing amendment to be carried forward.

The SFM amendment should simplify the understanding of requirements and eliminate confusion related to the required protection of these uses.

The code change proposal is editorial in nature and will have no impact on the cost of construction.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 5-2

Section 506.2.1 Single-occupancy buildings

The SFM proposes to reinstate an existing amendment to correct language that was mistakenly omitted during the last triennial when there were model code changes in the

allowable area formulas.

During precycle, on May 7, 2024, the SFM received a public comment from Chris Prueher from Code Consultants, Inc. who identified this code change error had occurred and made the recommendation to re-established total area restrictions for buildings more than two stories above grade plan and prohibit tripling of floor areas as currently allowed in the 2022 CBC.

The original California amendment was introduced in 2006. Following is the 2006 rulemaking initial statement of reasons.

SFM is proposing these amendments to address the increases in building height and areas. Revisions to Sections 504.2 and 506.3 are proposed to remove the allowance of the combined height and area increase with automatic sprinklers. Revisions to Section 506.4 are proposed to remove the tripling of the maximum allowable floor areas for building three stories or taller and substituting the doubling of one-story areas for multistory buildings. Furthermore, revisions to 504.2 and 506.4 eliminate the allowances for Group R occupancy buildings protected with an NFPA 13R automatic sprinkler system.

To identify a balanced approach to fire protection based on the historical use of height and area provisions and data demonstrate California's minimum requirements for the built environment have safeguarded the public health, safety, and general welfare of the occupants and the property as a whole since the 1920s.

The additional safety provided by an automatic sprinkler system has been acknowledged as justification for either increasing the allowable height of a building by one (1) story or increasing the allowable area beyond the limits established in Table 5-A, but not both. The current code allows both without providing any mitigating protective requirements to balance the increased exposure risk to occupants and safety/rescue responders, as well as property protection.

The reduced sprinkler coverage allowed by NFPA 13R (NFPA 13R exempts concealed spaces such as attics) reduces the effectiveness of fire sprinklers within the most vulnerable occupancy types (Group R) for fire hazards. Furthermore, the IBC does not require any additional protective features to mitigate the increase in potential risk associated with a building that is both taller and larger in area, thereby resulting in a potential decrease in public safety. This section is further amended by removing language that permits additional height and story in Group R buildings equipped with an NFPA 13R (instead of an NFPA 13) fire protection system. While the code requires a full NFPA 13 system for other occupancy groups utilizing section 504.2 for height and story increase, it does not currently require mitigating protective features within R occupancies when utilizing the reduced NFPA 13R system for the same purpose. This amendment will address the unmitigated decrease in fire safety currently allowed by section 504.2.

The current code language allows for a tripling of the allowable floor area, as determined in Section 506.1, for buildings three stories or taller, even if no sprinklers or other additional fire protection features are integrated into the building design. This results in a decreased level of public safety because fire rescue and fire suppression responders would be required to accomplish their emergency response tasks in larger multi-story buildings, without the benefit of increased fire

protection based on either sprinklers, type of construction, firewalls, or some combination thereof. Furthermore, the current code language allows for buildings equipped with an NFPA 13 sprinkler system throughout, to observe a maximum allowable floor area equivalent to the area determined in Section 506.1 multiplied by the number of stories. This increase relies solely on an automatic fire extinguishing system and has no redundant mitigating protective features to address the potential for sprinkler failure due to a disruption in water supply, mechanical failure, lack of proper maintenance, or temporary disruptions to sprinkler systems that occur during typical remodeling and tenant improvement projects. A significant proportion of the multi-story buildings constantly undergo tenant improvements, and other activities, that result in modifications to, or disruptions of, automatic sprinkler systems. The disproportional reliance on active fire suppression (fire sprinklers) without added passive resistance significantly reduces life safety.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection/Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) recognizes and supports the benefits of automatic fire sprinkler protection in buildings. The need for a balanced approach to fire protection is also recognized and is the basis for this proposal which permits the use of automatic sprinkler systems for an increase in height or area but not both. During the current California code adoption process, building and fire officials reviewed data from various sources in an attempt to justify the increased building size of the 2006 IBC over the allowable areas/heights in all three legacy codes. There appears to be little science behind the table values and formulas, OSFM and California code officials involved in this process are not comfortable and cannot justify the elimination of redundancy from the code and an over-reliance on fire sprinkler systems. Several factors support the need to restore balance to this code:

- a. There is a public expectation of the level of safety inherent in the current codes which become policy upon local adoption. The west coast has a lower fire loss record than the rest of the county, which may be, at least partially attributed to construction requirements. There is an increase in risk that accompanies larger building sizes which cannot be justified in light of national fire statistics that are among the worst of any other industrialized nation.
- b. There are no redundant mitigating protective features to address the potential for sprinkler failure due to a disruption in water supply, mechanical failure, lack of proper maintenance, human error, or temporary disruptions to sprinkler systems that occur during typical remodeling and tenant improvement projects. Furthermore, reductions in water supply have resulted after every major seismic event in California, which would render an automatic sprinkler system ineffective if a fire were to occur. What is the true reliability of a sprinkler system? A recent article cites 89% as the figure when both the performance and operational reliability are factored in. There have been at least two major recalls of defective sprinklers. They are out of service for maintenance, construction (TI) and/or unintentional human error. There is also a vulnerability factor – besides seismic, we have an experience where systems were taken out by vehicle crashes or explosions. In instances of improper design/use or arson, the system can be overcome. Sprinkler

systems often do not extinguish the fire and there can be tremendous smoke generation and spread (particularly smoldering or shielded fires, etc). Sprinklers drive the smoke lower and impede visibility. Building size becomes more of an issue for both rescue (panic) and firefighting.

- c. The quantity and capability of emergency response resources are based on the infrastructure and building design that has existed in California, and other states, for decades. Therefore, the level of fire and life safety would be decreased below what we have today in terms of building size. Public safety departments are staffed for current building sizes and larger buildings may lead to larger fires and the need for staffing/tactical/infrastructure changes.
- d. This results in a decreased level of public safety because fire rescue and fire suppression responders would be required to accomplish their emergency response tasks in larger multi-story buildings, without the benefit of increased fire protection based on either sprinklers, type of construction, area separation walls, or some combination thereof. By limiting the use of a fire sprinkler system to an increase in height or area, but not both serves to restore balance to the code. This code change also proposes to eliminate the special allowances given for Group R occupancy buildings that are protected with an NFPA 13R automatic sprinkler system as specified in Section 903.3.1.2. Currently, Section 504.2 will allow an increase in the building height of one story and 20 feet where an NFPA 13R sprinkler system is provided as long as the building does not exceed a total height of four stories or 60 feet which is within the scope limitations of the NFPA 13R standard. Furthermore, Section 506.4 allows an area increase for the installation of an NFPA 13R sprinkler system for Group R buildings that are greater than three stories in height. We do not believe it is appropriate to provide for such allowances for the types of construction which in essence lessens the built-in fire-resistive passive protection where an NFPA 13R sprinkler system is installed. NFPA 13R sprinkler systems are primarily provided for life safety. They were developed for that purpose as clearly stated in Section 1.2 of the 2002 edition. It is interesting to quote the Annex A discussion of the purpose of NFPA 13R which states: "Various levels of sprinkler protection are available to provide life safety and property protection. This standard is designed to provide a high, but not absolute, level of life safety and a lesser level of property protection. Greater protection for both life and property could be achieved by automatic sprinklers in all areas per NFPA 13... it should be recognized that the omission of sprinklers from certain areas could result in the development of untenable conditions in adjacent spaces. Where evacuation times could be delayed, additional sprinkler protection and other fire protection features, such as detection and compartmentalization, could be necessary." We believe that says it all about an NFPA 13R sprinkler system.

However, the intent of the IBC as expressed in Section 101.3 Intent is as follows: "The purpose of this code is to establish the minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety, and general welfare... and safety to life and property from fire and other hazards attributed to the built environment and to provide safety to firefighters and emergency responders during emergency operations." We believe

that allowing the use of an NFPA 13R sprinkler system to increase the size of a building would be counter to the intent and purpose of the IBC. Types of construction are designed to limit the height and area of buildings based on the occupancy the degree of built-in fire-resistive protection and the use of combustible or noncombustible construction materials. Buildings are allowed to get larger in area and taller in height with more fire-resistance built in and the lesser use of combustible construction for the building's structural elements. Therefore, property protection is a critical outcome of the use of types of construction.

Of course, the type of construction also plays a role in life safety, especially in multi-story buildings, and has an impact on firefighter safety as well. However an NFPA 13R sprinkler system is a partial sprinkler system because the standard does not require sprinklers in many concealed areas including attics. So why should a building protected with an NFPA 13R sprinkler system enjoy the same increases as a building more completely protected with an NFPA 13 sprinkler system?

Within the last few years, there have been many fires involving buildings protected with NFPA 13R sprinkler systems which have burned to the ground. In most of those cases, the fire was able to get into the unprotected attic space spread throughout the building, and then burn downward, overpowering the sprinkler system. Certainly, allowable increases in height and area are not appropriate for sprinkler systems that can allow a building to be burned to the ground.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept.

ITEM 5-3

Section 508.2.4 Separation of Occupancies

The SFM proposed modification to the existing amendment of section 508.2.4 exception item 4 to remove reference to vehicle sallyports and repeals exception.

Per the consensus determined by the I-3 task group:

A locked vehicle sallyport must be classified as an I-3 occupancy, the same as the jail, prison, juvenile hall, or courthouse facility it serves. Because it is the same occupancy, a fire barrier separation is not otherwise required by Section 508. The I-3 task group recognizes that a vehicle fire in an enclosed vehicle sallyport may represent a specific risk to occupants in the adjacent spaces. Therefore, in the 2019 CBC, this task group introduced 508.2.4 Exception 4 and 508.3.3 Exception 3 which would clarify that a separation is still required between vehicle sallyports and adjacent I-3 uses.

However, the language added to the 2019 CBC did not properly align with the intent of the task group. The intent was only to require separation when vehicle sallyports were enclosed with a solid roof that would trap fire smoke. The intent was never to require a separation when a vehicle sallyport was open or mostly open to the sky.

The proposed changes clarify the actual intent of the previous California Amendment. In addition, this change clarifies that solid roofs in a vehicle sallyport shall be fully sprinklered per NFPA 13.

The task group reviewed various scenarios and configurations of vehicle sallyports in this assessment. For vehicle sallyports open to the sky, these designs should be reviewed as if they were a fenced yard. This configuration represents no more risk than other vehicle parking located adjacent to a vehicle sallyport.

When analyzing vehicle sallyports with partial coverings (up to 50%), we recognized that per the CBC these facilities are Type I noncombustible construction, fully sprinklered, and would need ceilings over 10 feet above floor level to accommodate vehicles. The CBC would require that at least one exit from an adjacent building(s) egress away from the vehicle sallyport, and in most cases, no egress would be allowed into a covered sallyport. With a sprinklered roof covering of less than 50%, occupants could be evacuated away from the vehicle sallyport before fire and smoke resulted in a risk to life safety.

Vehicle sallyports that have a roof over more than 50% of the space would need to be separated from adjacent interior uses by 2-hour fire barriers, which is the intent of the previous California Amendment. In addition, if occupied spaces were located above the vehicle sallyport, a floor/ceiling assembly of at least 2-hour construction would be required by Table 705.5 Fire-Resistance Rating Requirements for Exterior Walls Based on Fire Separation Distance.

Note, this code change proposal should be considered along with the code change proposal for 508.3.3 and 408.16.

There should be no increase in building cost because the Office of State Fire Marshal has been applying the code section based on the intent of the 2019 CBC California Amendments. However, there has been a schedule impact during the agency review because these requirements are not clear. These clarifications should streamline the review of jail facilities which may result in some cost savings due to reduced escalation.

The SFM amendment should simplify the understanding of requirements and eliminate confusion related to the required protection of these uses.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 5-4

Section 508.3.3 Separation

The SFM proposed modification to the existing amendments repeals exception item 3 and relocates item 4 to 3. Per the following reasoning determined by the I-3 task group.

A locked vehicle sallyport must be classified as an I-3 occupancy, the same as the jail, prison, juvenile hall, or courthouse facility it serves. Because it is the same occupancy,

a fire barrier separation is not otherwise required by Section 508. The I-3 task group recognizes that a vehicle fire in an enclosed vehicle sallyport may represent a specific risk to occupants in the adjacent spaces. Therefore, in the 2019 CBC, this task group introduced 508.2.4 Exception 4 and 508.3.3 Exception 3 which would clarify that separation is still required between vehicle sallyports and adjacent I-3 uses.

However, the language added to the 2019 CBC did not properly align with the intent of the task group. The intent was only to require separation when vehicle sallyports were enclosed with a solid roof that would trap fire smoke. The intent was never to require a separation when a vehicle sallyport was open or mostly open to the sky.

The proposed changes clarify the actual intent of the previous California Amendment. In addition, this change clarifies that solid roofs in a vehicle sallyport shall be fully sprinklered per NFPA 13.

The task group reviewed various scenarios and configurations of vehicle sallyports in this assessment. For vehicle sallyports open to the sky, these designs should be reviewed as if they were a fenced yard. This configuration represents no more risk than other vehicle parking located adjacent to a vehicle sallyport.

When analyzing vehicle sallyports with partial coverings (up to 50%), we recognized that per the CBC these facilities are Type I noncombustible construction, fully sprinklered, and would need ceilings over 10 feet above floor level to accommodate vehicles. The CBC would require that at least one exit from an adjacent building(s) egress away from the vehicle sallyport, and in most cases, no egress would be allowed into a covered sallyport. With a sprinklered roof covering of less than 50%, occupants could be evacuated away from the vehicle sallyport before fire and smoke resulted in a risk to life safety.

Vehicle sallyports that have a roof over more than 50% of the space would need to be separated from adjacent interior uses by 2-hour fire barriers, which is the intent of the previous California Amendment. In addition, if occupied spaces were located above the vehicle sallyport, a floor/ceiling assembly of at least 2-hour construction would be required by Table 705.5 Fire-Resistance Rating Requirements for Exterior Walls Based on Fire Separation Distance.

Note, this code change proposal should be considered along with the code change proposal for 508.2.4 and 408.16.

There should be no increase in building cost because the Office of State Fire Marshal has been applying the code section based on the intent of the 2019 CBC California Amendments. However, there has been a schedule impact during the agency review because these requirements are not clear. These clarifications should streamline the review of jail facilities which may result in some cost savings due to reduced escalation.

The SFM amendment should simplify the understanding of requirements and eliminate confusion related to the required protection of these uses.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 5-5

Section Table 508.4 REQUIRED SEPARATION OF OCCUPANCIES (HOURS)

Withdrawn

CAC Recommendation:

Further Study Required under criteria #4. OSHPD and SFM to coordinate on whether to withdraw or further amend the proposed amendment.

Agency Response:

SFM is proposing to withdraw item 5-5 in coordination with OSHPD. Further study is more long-term and will be analyzed in a future code cycle.

ITEM 6

Chapter 6 Types of Construction

The SFM proposes to adopt Chapter 6 and carry forward the existing amendments without modification.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 7

Chapter 7 Fire and Smoke Protection Features

The SFM proposes to adopt Chapter 7 and carry forward the existing amendments with modification.

ITEM 7-1

Section 704.5.1 (Formally 704.6.1) Secondary attachments to structural members.

The SFM proposes to repeal and replace existing amendments with model code language.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 7-2

Section 705.13 Exterior graphics on exterior walls of high-rise buildings.

The SFM proposes to carry forward the existing amendment with renumbering modification from section 705.12 to 705.13 due to model code language revisions.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 7-3

Section 707.5 Continuity

The Office of The State Fire Marshal proposes an amendment to address the termination of fire barriers required for incidental use rooms per California Building Code Table 509.1 in I-2 occupancies. California Building Code requires fire barriers to extend from the top of the foundation or floor/ceiling assembly below to the underside of the floor or roof sheathing, slab, or deck above and shall be securely attached thereto, other than as permitted per exceptions 1-3.

Exceptions 2 and 3 currently allow interior exit stairway and ramp enclosures to terminate at a top enclosure meeting the requirements for a top enclosure of a shaft. This proposed change extends this same allowance to incidental use rooms in I-2 occupancies. Since an incidental use room does not penetrate a floor as the shaft does, this proposal includes this allowance as a new exception, rather than referring to top enclosure requirements for shafts.

The allowance is not proposed for rooms containing stationary fuel cell power systems required to be rated per California Fire Code 1206.6.2, as this requirement is a more stringent and specific requirement due to the hazard of the content of these rooms or areas.

The Office of The State Fire Marshal's proposed amendment includes two additional exceptions allowing for options of termination of the fire barrier based on the design and construction type of the building.

The use of a fire-resistance-rated top enclosure for an incidental use room is commonly used to allow mechanical, electrical, and plumbing work to route above an incidental use room. This proposal would specifically allow what is currently allowed by the provisions in IBC 104.10.

There is no increase in the cost of construction.

There is no change to construction cost since this new exception is not required to be used. If used, there is a cost tradeoff between extending fire barriers to the roof, sheathing, slab, or deck and providing the top enclosure. Savings in mechanical, electrical, or plumbing systems may be realized by routing over an incidental use room instead of around an incidental use room.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 7-4

Section 716.2.6 Fire door hardware and closers.

The SFM proposes to repeal and replace existing amendments with model code language.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 7-5

Section 717.2.4 Mechanical, electrical and plumbing controls.

The SFM proposes to amend section 717.2.4 reference to IMC to coordinate the adoption of the CMC.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 8

Chapter 7A [SFM] Materials and Construction Methods for Exterior Wildland Fire Exposure

SFM proposes to relocate the provisions of Chapter 7A to the new Part 7 California Wildland Urban Interface Code. A “Note” has been added for code users to easily identify where the regulations have been relocated to. An administrative section has been added to direct the code user to the additional regulations of the California Fire Code shall be applied to residential structures located in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) or designated Fire Hazard Severity Zones as applicable.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 9

Chapter 8 Interior Finishes

The SFM proposes to adopt Chapter 8 and carry forward the existing amendments to Table 803.13, sections 804.1, 804.4, 804.4.1, 804.4.2, 804.4.3, 806.4, and 806.7 with modifications.

ITEM 9-1

Table 803.13 INTERIOR WALL AND CEILING FINISH REQUIREMENTS BY OCCUPANCY

The SFM proposes to carry forward the existing amendments with modifications to correct publication errors on footnotes. Footnote “n” is stricken and “o” is to be added to Group I-2.

The SFM amendment should simplify the understanding of requirements and eliminate confusion related to the required protection of these uses. The code change proposal is editorial in nature and will have no impact on the cost of construction.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 10

Chapter 9 Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems

The SFM proposes to adopt Chapter 9 and carry forward the existing amendments with modifications.

ITEM 10-1

Section 903.1.1 Alternative protection.

The SFM proposes to repeal and replace existing amendments with model code language.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 10-2

Section 903.2 Where Required.

The SFM proposed to modify the existing amendments to coordinate language to be consistent with the remaining portions of this code and the California Fire Code. The code change proposal is editorial in nature and will have no impact on the cost of construction.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 10-3

Section 903.3.1.1.1 Exempt locations

The SFM proposed to modify the existing amendments to section 903.3.1.1.1 due to model code language revisions.

The SFM amendment should simplify the understanding of requirements and eliminate confusion related to the required protection of these uses. The code change proposal is editorial in nature and will have no impact on the cost of construction.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 10-4

Section 903.3.1.1.4 Solar photovoltaic power systems

The SFM proposed renumbering modification to an existing amendment to carry forward provisions for solar photovoltaic power systems.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 10-5

Section 903.3.10 Floor control valves

The SFM proposes a renumbering modification to carry forward the existing amendment shown below due to model code revisions.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 10-6

Section 903.4.3 Alarms.

The SFM proposes to repeal existing amendments.

The SFM amendment should simplify the understanding of requirements and eliminate confusion related to the required protection of these uses.

The code change proposal is editorial in nature and will have no impact on the cost of construction.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 10-7

Section 903.5 Inspection, testing and maintenance.

The SFM proposes to repeal and replace the existing amendment with model code language and carry forward the existing amendment as shown below due to model code revisions.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 10-8

Section 905 Standpipe Systems.

The SFM proposed to modify the existing amendments to coordinate language to be consistent with the remaining portions of this code and the California Fire Code.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 10-9

Section 907.2.2.3 Group B Educational facilities

The SFM proposes to carry forward the existing amendments due to model code deletion resulting in renumbering.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept.

SFM received two comments prior to the Building, Fire, Other—Code Advisory Committee hearing. The comments were received from David Secoda addressing Sections 907.2.3.6.1, 907.2.3.6.2, and 907.5.2.4, which are all related to fire protection and life safety systems for schools. The SFM will further study these comments in future rulemaking activities.

ITEM 10-10

Section 907.2.12 Special amusement areas

The SFM proposes to repeal and replace some of the existing amendments with a model code language in Section 907.2.12. The SFM proposes to repeal existing amendments in 2022 CBC Sections 907.2.12.1 - 907.2.12.3 as these sections do not exist in 2024 IBC.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Disagree.

Post CAC: SFM determined that the Part 2 amendment proposal in the Initial Express Terms did not align with the same amendment in the SFM 06/24, Part 9 proposal, Item 9-15. The Part 2 and Part 9 charging language and Express Terms have been editorially modified to accurately indicate blending the existing amendment regarding exit access into the new model code language. This change was necessary to correlate with both proposals.

ITEM 10-10.1

Section 907.6 Installation and Monitoring

The SFM proposes to modify the existing amendment to make an editorial revision and correct the reference pointer.

CAC Recommendation:

Not Applicable

Agency Response:

Post CAC: Item has not been reviewed by BFO-CAC. SFM determined that the Initial Express Terms did not include the same amendment in the SFM 06/24, Part 9 proposal, Item 9-16. The Part 2 Express Terms has been modified to add Item 10.10.1 to propose correction to the same pointer to Section 907.6.6.4. This change was necessary to correlate with both proposals.

ITEM 10-11

Section 907.6.4.4 Notification zoning

The SFM proposes to modify the existing amendment due to the renumbering of the referenced section noted in Exception 1.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 10-12

Sections 907.2.3.5 Monitoring and 907.6.6.4 Group E schools

The SFM proposes to modify the existing amendment to correct reference pointers to sections 907.6.6.4 and 907.6.6.3 relating to Group “E” Monitoring.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 10-13

Section 915.4.4 Interconnection.

SFM proposes to co-adopt HCD amendments to Section 915.4.4 and coordinate with the same amendment in the California Fire Code. This will prevent duplication and/or conflicting provisions for interconnection requirements in R occupancies. Continued adoption of the existing California amendment, provides that all the requirements and exceptions will be available for the code user. This amendment provides clarity and consistency for implementation and enforcement. There is no intended change in regulatory effect.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 10-14

Section 915.6.1 Enclosed parking garages

The SFM amendment coordinates the existing provision in the California Fire Code with the California Building Code which should simplify the understanding of requirements and eliminate confusion related to the required protection of these uses.

The code change proposal is editorial in nature and will have no impact on the cost of

construction.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 11

Chapter 10 Means of Egress

The SFM proposes to adopt Chapter 10 and carry forward the existing amendments with modifications.

ITEM 11-1

Section 1006.2.2.4 Electrical rooms.

The SFM proposes to repeal the model code reference to NFPA 70 and replace it with the California Electrical Code for proper reference. The code change proposal is editorial in nature and will have no impact on the cost of construction.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 11-2

Section 1008.3 Illumination required by an emergency electrical system.

The SFM proposes to carry forward the existing amendment. This is not new language but relocated due to sections combined in the 2024 International Building Code (IBC). The IBC combined several sections for egress lighting into one section.

The State Fire Marshal (SFM) proposed amendment reinstates provisions published in several editions of the California Building Code. The SFM proposes an amendment to add number 4 to address the previously adopted requirement for egress lighting for I-2 occupancies. As such, the proposed amendment should not be considered as a new requirement.

The California amendment also aligns with provisions published in National Fire Protection Association 101 The Life Safety Code.

The SFM amendment should simplify the understanding of requirements and eliminate confusion related to the required protection of these uses. The code change proposal is editorial in nature and will have no impact on the cost of construction.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 11-3

Section 1010.2.3 Hardware height

The SFM proposes to repeal the reference pointer to the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code and replace with the California Building Code. The International Swimming Pool and Spa Code is not adopted in the State of California.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 11-4

Section 1010.2.7 Locking arrangements in educational occupancies

The SFM proposes to renumber existing amendment due to model code revisions and renumbering.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 11-5

Section 1010.2.8.2 Rooms with electrical equipment

The SFM proposes to repeal the model code reference to NFPA 70 and replace it with the California Electrical Code for proper reference. The code change proposal is editorial in nature and will have no impact on the cost of construction.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 11-6

Section 1010.2.11 Sensor release of electrically locked egress doors.

The SFM proposed to renumber due to model code revisions and renumbering.

The code change proposal is editorial in nature and will have no impact on the cost of construction.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 11-7

Section 1011.16 Ladders.

The SFM proposed to revise pointers to sections in the California Mechanical Code.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 11-8

Section 1015.2 Where required.

The SFM proposed to renumber the existing amendment due to model code revisions. The code change proposal is editorial in nature and will have no impact on the cost of construction.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 11-9

Section 1016.2 Egress through intervening spaces.

The SFM proposed to renumber the existing amendment due to model code revisions. The code change proposal is editorial in nature and will have no impact on the cost of construction.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 11-10

Section TABLE 1020.2 CORRIDOR FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING

The SFM proposes to modify the existing amendments to Table 1020.2 to repeal the line item for “E” occupancies and modify “I-4” items to require 1 hour with sprinklers. 2021 Triennial Jan. 18 meeting Commissioner Rambin commented, CAM 4-15 conflicts with table 1020.2 egress requirements. Proposal to modify the requirements in the table to 1 hour for I-4 with sprinklers with the intent that 1-hour corridors be provided to I-4 without direct exiting.

The SFM amendment should simplify the understanding of requirements and eliminate confusion related to the required protection of these uses. The code change proposal is editorial in nature and will have no impact on the cost of construction.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 11-11

Section 1026.6 Two-way communication

Proposal E101-24 was heard at the International Code Council (ICC) Committee Action Hearing (CAH), Group A, in Orlando, FL in April 2024. The proposal was disapproved 14-0. The California Fire Alarm Advisory Committee voted to introduce this proposal during the California Building Standards rulemaking process with the same justification that was presented at the ICC hearing in Orlando, FL.

This proposal seeks to amend the existing standards by specifying that two-way communication systems must be installed in all horizontal exit compartments. A "horizontal exit" is defined as a passageway leading either to a refuge area in another building at a similar level or through a fire barrier to a refuge area within the same building, protecting from fire and smoke.

Current codes (1009.3, 1009.8) mandate the installation of these communication systems in elevator landings, areas of refuge (1009.6.5), and locked stairways in high-rise buildings (403.5.3.1). However, in situations where a fire breaks out near an elevator landing, individuals with disabilities or physical limitations who are unable to evacuate and seek shelter in a horizontal exit may find themselves cut off from communication with a constantly attended station or a central station, especially if the system is designed to call directly offsite.

In recognition of this critical safety gap, some jurisdictions in California have already mandated the installation of two-way communication systems in every horizontal exit compartment. This proposal aims to standardize this safety measure across all jurisdictions to ensure consistent protection for individuals who may find themselves in such vulnerable situations during a fire emergency.

Bibliography:

[Area of Refuge Requirements \(nfpa.org\) https://www.nfpa.org/news-blogs-and-articles/blogs/2023/03/13/unraveling-the-area-of-refuge-requirements](https://www.nfpa.org/news-blogs-and-articles/blogs/2023/03/13/unraveling-the-area-of-refuge-requirements) - Unraveling the Area of Refuge Requirements - by Valerie Zivras - NFPA

[Accessible Means of Egress \(nfpa.org\) https://www.nfpa.org/news-blogs-and-articles/blogs/2023/01/09/accessible-means-of-egress-and-the-life-safety-code?l=76](https://www.nfpa.org/news-blogs-and-articles/blogs/2023/01/09/accessible-means-of-egress-and-the-life-safety-code?l=76) - Accessible Means of Egress and the Life Safety Code - by Valerie Zivras - NFPA

[Your Guide to Area of Refuge, Requirements, & Signs - Viking Electronics, Inc. https://vikingelectronics.com/area-of-refuge/](https://vikingelectronics.com/area-of-refuge/)

[Chapter 4: Accessible Means of Egress \(access-board.gov\) https://www.access-board.gov/aba/guides/chapter-4-accessible-means-of-egress/](https://www.access-board.gov/aba/guides/chapter-4-accessible-means-of-egress/)

CAC Recommendation:

Further Study Required under criteria #4. SFM to consider whether to withdraw or further amend proposed amendment language for clarification regarding outcome of model code advisory committee determination in October 2024.

Agency Response:

Disagree. The SFM Fire Alarm Advisory Committee will meet on August 13, 2024 to discuss the comments received at the Building, Fire, Other – Code Advisory Committee as well as the opposition testimony heard at the International Code Counsel, Committee Action Hearings held in April 2024 in Orlando, Florida. SFM will proceed with this proposal through the 45-Day Comment Period. Further study will be provided by the Fire Alarm Advisory Committee.

ITEM 11-12

Section 1030 ASSEMBLY

The SFM proposes to modify the existing pointers due to model code revisions. The code change proposal is editorial in nature and will have no impact on the cost of construction.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 12

Chapter 11 Accessibility

[The SFM proposes to not adopt 2024 IBC Chapter 11.]

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 13
Chapter 12 Interior Environment

The SFM proposed to adopt Sections 1202.6, 1205, and 1209, and carry forward existing amendments.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 14
Chapter 13 Energy Efficiency

[The SFM proposes to not adopt 2024 IBC Chapter 13.]

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 15
Chapter 14 Exterior Walls

The SFM proposed to adopt 2024 IBC Sections 1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407, 1408, 1411 and 1412 of Chapter 14 and without amendments.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 16
Chapter 15 Roof Assemblies and Rooftop Structures

The SFM proposes to adopt Sections 1501, 1503.3, 1503.3.1, 1503.3.2, 1503.4, 1505, 1506, 1507, 1509, 1510, 1511 of 2024 IBC Chapter 15 and carry forward the existing amendments with modification.

ITEM 16-1
Section 1505.1 General.

The SFM is proposing to modify the existing amendments and blend them with the new model code language. The amendment is editorial in nature and there is no cost impact.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 17

Chapter 16 Structural Design

The SFM proposes to **not** adopt Chapter 16.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 18

Chapter 17 Special Inspections and Tests

The SFM proposes to adopt sections 1701, 1702, 1703, 1705.1.1, 1705.3, Table 1705.3, 1705.5.3, Table 1705.5.3, 1705.12.1, 1705.12.2, 1705.13.2, 1705.13.3, 1705.15, 1705.16, 1705.18, 1705.19, 1705.20 of Chapter 17 and carry forward the existing amendments with modifications.

ITEM 18-1

Section 1705.15 Sprayed fire-resistant materials

The SFM proposed an amendment to section 1705.15 to include pointer references to relevant sections 1705.15.4.2 through 1705.15.4.9 for clarity.

The SFM amendment should simplify the understanding of requirements and eliminate confusion related to the required protection of these uses.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 19

Chapter 18 Soils and Foundations

Chapter 19 Concrete

Chapter 20 Aluminum

The SFM proposes to **not** adopt 2024 IBC Chapters 18, 19 and 20.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 20

Chapter 21 Masonry

The SFM proposes to adopt and carry forward SFM amended Section 2113.9.2 of Chapter 21.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 21

Chapter 22 Steel

The SFM proposes to **not** adopt Chapter 22.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 22

Chapter 23 Wood

The SFM proposes to adopt Sections 2303.2 – 2303.2.10 of Chapter 23 without amendments.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 23

Chapter 24 Glass and Glazing

The SFM proposed to adopt Chapter 24 without amendment.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 24

Chapter 25 Gypsum Board, Gypsum Panel Products and Plaster

The SFM proposes to **not** adopt Chapter 25.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 25

Chapter 26 Plastic

The SFM proposed to adopt Chapter 26 without amendment.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 26

Chapter 27 Electrical

The SFM proposes to adopt Chapter 27 and carry forward the existing amendments of sections 2702.1.2, 2702.2.11, and 2702.2.13 with a modification as shown below.

ITEM 26-1

Section 2702.2.13 Group L Occupancy

The SFM proposes to renumber Section 2702.2.12.1. SFM Group L Occupancy to relocate to section 2702.2.13. which correlates with Group L Occupancies in the model code.

The SFM amendment should simplify the understanding of requirements and eliminate confusion related to the required protection of these uses.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 27

Chapter 28 Mechanical Systems

The SFM proposes to adopt Chapter 28 and carry forward the existing amendments.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 28

Chapter 29 Plumbing Systems

The SFM proposes to **not** adopt 2024 IBC Chapter 29.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 29

Chapter 30 Elevator and Conveying Systems

The SFM proposes to adopt 2024 IBC Chapter 30 and carry forward the existing amendments with modifications that include renumbering due to model code revisions and adding reference pointers to applicable California regulations.

The SFM amendment should simplify the understanding of requirements and eliminate confusion related to the required protection of these uses.

ITEM 29-1

Section 3001.2 Elevator emergency communication systems

The SFM proposes to amend Section 3001.2 model code language to point to California Code of Regulations Title 8 Elevator Safety Orders.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 29-2

Section 3001.7 Elevators utilized to transport hazardous materials

The SFM proposes to amend Section 3001.6. and renumber to 3001.7 based on changes to the model code.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 29-3

Section 3006.2 Elevator hoistway door protection required

The SFM proposes to carry forward the existing amendment with modification and renumber model code condition 6 to condition 9.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve as Amended under criteria #4. SFM to make editorial correction in the Express Terms.

Agency Response:

Accept. SFM has made the editorial correction to add a period after buildings and remove the strike out for hoistway openings as the committee recommended. SFM agrees with this modification for code user clarify and for the intent of the regulation.

[...buildings. Hoistway opening protection is required to be...]

ITEM 29-4

Section 3006.3 Hoistway opening protection required

The SFM is proposing to carry forward the existing amendment to item 4. Item 5 is the new model language provided below.

SFM is further amending item 5 to point to California Code of Regulations Title 8 Elevator Safety Orders.

Smoke-protective curtain assemblies for hoistways are recognized and regulated in NFPA 105 Chapter 9 (2019). There are multiple manufacturers of these assemblies in the market. These products have been in the market for 25 years with tens of thousands of successful installations. Smoke protective curtain assemblies provide a proven means for smoke and draft control at the hoistway door that enables design freedom and innovation. Smoke-protective curtain assemblies for hoistways should be allowed to provide smoke and draft protection where enclosed elevator lobbies are not required.

SFM is proposing to carry forward an existing amendment with an errata to item 6 to correct reference pointer to 707.6 concerning fire barriers.

The SFM amendment should simplify the understanding of requirements and eliminate confusion related to the required protection of these uses.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept.

ITEM 29-5

Section 3009 PRIVATE RESIDENCE ELEVATORS

The SFM proposes to amend Section 3009 model code language to point to California Code of Regulations Title 8 Elevator Safety Orders.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 30

Chapter 31 Special Construction

The SFM proposes to adopt sections 3101, 3102, 3103, 3104, 3105, 3106, 3110, 3111, and 3115 of Chapter 31 and carry forward the existing amendments with modification to 3104.2, repeal and replace sections 3111.3.5 and 3111.3.6.1., and add section 3103.1.2.

ITEM 30-1

Section 3103.1.2.1 Water-filled vessels

The SFM proposes to add the existing California Fire Code amendment pertaining to the use of water-filled vessels under section 3103.1.2 Conformance.

The SFM amendment should simplify the understanding of requirements and eliminate confusion related to the requirement for the use of water-filled vessels in conformance with the CFC and CBC. The code change proposal is editorial in nature and will have no impact on the cost of construction.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 30-2

Section 3104.2 Flame Propagation Performance Testing and Registration

The SFM proposes to amend the model code to repeal the reference to NFPA 701, Test 2 testing standard. NFPA 701 is not been adopted nor is it approved for requirements of registration by the SFM. This has been discussed and agreed upon through collaboration with the Flame Retardant Advisory Committee on several occasions. The rationale for the code change solution is to specify the requirements of the Flame Retardant Program and the State of California to alleviate confusion during enforcement. Currently, there are jurisdictions that are asking for both testing standards. Nobody will be affected by the proposal, as these requirements have been in place for 30 years. In addition, the Flame-Retardant program was not consulted to include the NFPA 701, Test 2 testing standard.

Per California Building Code Chapter 31, the matrix adoption table of Chapter 31-

Tents, Temporary Special Event Structures and Other Membrane Structures has the State Fire Marshal adopting the entire chapter as amended. However, Assembly Bill 267 has increased the occupant load from 9 or less to 15 or less. The matrix additionally does not specify adopting amendment to Section 3104.2 Flame Propagation Performance Testing and Certification. The Flame-Retardant Program that is required to regulate and register tents in the State of California does not accept NFPA 701, Test 2, testing standard, and is inferior to the testing that the SFM requires for exterior approval tested to CCR, Title 19, Section 1237.1 nor CPAI 84 Testing for small tents. The California Flame Retardant Program does not issue certifications we issue registrations.

The current required testing of exterior fabric found in Title 19, Chapter 2 is CPAI 84 for small tents, and Chapter 8 Section 1237.1 for large tents. The Health and Safety Code Section 13115 mandates the approval of the fabric with the State Fire Marshal's adopted standard. The California Building Code has misprinted the NFPA 701 Test 2 for Flame Propagation Performance Testing and Certification. The correction to the title is requested because CAL FIRE does not certify fabrics, we register them.

The NFPA 701 testing standard which is currently in the California Fire Code is creating confusion and misinformation in the industry and enforcement agencies. Some counties are asking for both, not understanding the difference in the testing. NFPA 701 has a lower testing criteria compared to California's current standard. The proposed changes are requested to maintain the currently adopted standard to provide clear guidance to the stakeholders.

The SFM amendment should simplify the understanding of requirements and eliminate confusion related to the required protection of these uses.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 30-3

Section 3111.3.5 Elevated photovoltaic (PV) support structures

The SFM is proposing to repeal and replace with model code language.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 30-4

Section 3111.3.6.1 Fire separation distances

The SFM is proposing to repeal and replace with model code language.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 31

Chapter 32 Encroachments into the Public Right-of-Way

The SFM proposes to adopt Chapter 32 without amendment.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 32

Chapter 33 Safeguards During Construction

The SFM proposes to adopt Chapter 33 without amendment.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 33

Chapter 35 Referenced Standards

The SFM proposes to adopt Chapter 35 and carry forward the existing amendments with modifications that correlate with the section referenced due to model code revisions and that update the referenced standard to correlate with the most recent edition of the standard. The rulemaking process between the different model codes can cause conflict in the adoption of the latest standards. The proposal is to establish consistency within the parts of the California Buildings Standards Code.

The SFM amendment should simplify the understanding of requirements and eliminate confusion related to the required protection of these uses.

ITEM 33-1
ANSI S3.41

The SFM proposes to modify the existing amendment due to model language revision which relocated the previous section location from 907.5.2.1.3 to 907.5.2.1.4.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

**ITEM 33-2
ASTM E108**

The SFM proposes to repeal and replace existing amendments with model language.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

**ITEM 33-3
FM 3011**

The SFM proposes to modify the existing amendment due to model language revision which relocated the previous section location from 907.6.6.3 to 907.6.6.4.

The SFM amendment should simplify the understanding of requirements and eliminate confusion related to the required protection of these uses.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

**ITEM 33-4
FM 4430**

The SFM proposes to repeal and replace existing amendments with model code to delete duplicated references.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

**ITEM 33-5
ICC ES AC 77**

The SFM proposes to modify the existing amendment due to model language revision

which relocated the previous section location from 707.14.1 to 3006.3.

The SFM amendment should simplify the understanding of requirements and eliminate confusion related to the required protection of these uses.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 33-6

Section Referenced Standards NFPA

The SFM proposes to adopt Chapter 35 and carry forward the existing amendments with modifications that update the referenced standard to correlate with the most recent edition of the standard. The rulemaking process between the different model codes can cause conflict in the adoption of the latest standards. The proposal is to establish consistency within the parts of the California Buildings Standards Code.

The SFM amendments should simplify the understanding of requirements and eliminate confusion related to the required protection of these uses.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 34

Appendix A-H, and J-P

The SFM proposes to **not** adopt Appendix A-H, and J-P

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

ITEM 35

Appendix I PATIO COVERS

The SFM proposes to adopt only Sections I101-I103 of Appendix I.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

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 said model code as a reference standard for the placement of existing SFM regulatory amendments 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 amendments to the model code and additional building standards proposed are offered in both a prescriptive and performance base. The nature and format of the model code adopted by reference allow for both methods, the following is a general overview of the model code proposed to be adopted by reference as well as state modifications:

This comprehensive building 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.

The International Building Code (IBC) provisions provide many benefits, among which is the model code development process that offers an international forum for building and fire safety professionals to discuss performance and prescriptive code requirements. This forum provides an excellent arena to debate proposed revisions. This model code also encourages international consistency in the application of provisions.

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 action 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 more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the regulation is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed adoption by reference with

SFM amendments. 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 be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the regulation is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected small business than the proposed adoption by reference with SFM amendments. 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. Health and Safety Code Section 18928 requires the SFM when proposing the adoption of a model code, national standard, or specification shall reference the most recent edition of the applicable model code, national standard, or specification. 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)

The State Fire Marshal 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 the elimination of 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.**
These regulations will update and improve minimum existing building standards, which will provide increased 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 does not anticipate any significant cost of compliance with the proposed building standards. The regulations are based on the model code. Health & Safety Section 18928 requires that building standards be essentially the same as the most recent edition of the uniform industry codes. These regulations benefits are to have clear, concise, complete, and updated text of the regulations and standards.

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 unnecessarily duplicate or conflict with federal regulations contained in the Code of Federal Regulations that address the same issues as this proposed rulemaking.