

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION
TO BUILDING STANDARDS OF THE
DIVISION OF THE STATE ARCHITECT
REGARDING THE 2025 CALIFORNIA MECHANICAL CODE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PART 4
(DSA-SS 01/24)**

Notice is hereby given that the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) on behalf of the Division of the State Architect proposes to adopt, approve, codify, and publish changes to building standards contained in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24, Part 3. The DSA is proposing building standards related to 2025 California Mechanical Code.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Reference: Government Code Sections 11346.5(a)(1), 11346.5(a)(15) and 11346.5(a)(17).

A public hearing has not been scheduled; however, written comments will be accepted from **May 17, 2024** until midnight on **July 1, 2024**.

Comments may be submitted to CBSC via:

Email: cbsc@dgs.ca.gov

US Mail postmarked no later than **July 1, 2024**:

California Building Standards Commission

Attention: Public Comments

2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 130

Sacramento, CA 95833

Note: Only comments received in an accessible format will be viewable via CBSC's website.

Any interested person, or his or her duly authorized representative, may request no later than 15 days prior to the close of the written comment period that a public hearing be held.

The public will have an opportunity to provide written and oral comments regarding the proposed action on building standards at a public meeting to be conducted by CBSC to be scheduled at a date near the end of the current adoption cycle. A meeting notice will be issued announcing the date, time and location of the public meeting.

POST-HEARING MODIFICATIONS TO THE TEXT OF THE REGULATIONS

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(18).

Following the public comment period, CBSC may adopt the proposed building standards substantially as proposed in this notice or with modifications that are sufficiently related to the original proposed text and notice of proposed changes. If modifications are made, the full text of the proposed modifications, clearly indicated, will be made available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date on which CBSC adopts, amends, or repeals the regulation(s). CBSC will accept written comments on the modified building standards during the 15-day period.

NOTE: To be notified of any modifications, you must submit written/oral comments or request that you be notified of any modifications.

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(2).

CBSC proposes to adopt these building standards under the authority granted by Health and Safety Code Section 18949.1.

DSA is proposing this regulatory action under the authority granted in the Education Code Sections 17310 and 81142 and Health and Safety Code Section 16022.

The purpose of these building standards is to implement, interpret, or make specific the provisions of Education Code Sections 17280-17317, 81130-81149, Health & Safety Code Section 16000-16023

INFORMATIVE DIGEST

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(3).

Summary of Existing Laws

Health and Safety Code Section 18949.1 transfers the responsibilities of DSA to adopt regulations relating to building standards, to the California Building Standards Commission.

Education Code Sections 17280-17317 and 81130-81149 are known and cited as the “Field Act” and relate to public elementary and secondary (K-12) schools and community colleges respectively.

Education Code Sections 17310 and 81142 authorize the State Architect to establish building standards for the design, construction, and inspection of building systems for public elementary and secondary (K-12) schools and community colleges respectively.

Health and Safety Code Sections 16000-16023 are known as the Essential Services Buildings Seismic Safety Act of 1986 and requires that essential services buildings be capable of providing essential services to the public after a disaster and shall be designed and constructed to minimize fire hazards and to resist, insofar as practical, the forces generated by earthquakes, gravity, and winds.

Health and Safety Code Section 16022 authorizes the State Architect to establish building standards for state-owned and state-leased essential services buildings and to oversee the implementation of the act including the design and construction of state-owned and state leased essential services buildings.

Summary of Existing Regulations

Part 4 of Title 24, California Mechanical Code (CMC), prescribes the design and construction requirements for mechanical systems of public elementary and secondary schools and community colleges and state-owned and state leased essential services buildings.

Summary of Effect

The proposed action would update Title 24, Part 4, by repealing the adoption of the 2021 edition Uniform Mechanical Code and adopting the most recent edition of the selected model Mechanical code (Uniform Mechanical Code, 2024 edition). The

proposed action will also carry forward existing adopted Mechanical safety amendments into the 2025 Title 24, Part 4 CMC .

Comparable Federal Statute or Regulations

There are no comparable statutes.

Policy Statement Overview

The broad objective of the proposed action is to maintain building regulations in conformance with current state law by adopting the most current edition of the model mechanical code and nationally recognized mechanical design standards.

Evaluation of Consistency

There are no inconsistent or incompatible regulations being proposed.

OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE APPLICABLE TO THE AGENCY OR TO ANY SPECIFIC REGULATION OR CLASS OF REGULATIONS

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(4).

There are no other matters prescribed by statute applicable to the Division of the State Architect, or to any specific regulation or class of regulations.

MANDATE ON LOCAL AGENCIES OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(5).

DSA has determined that the proposed regulatory action would not impose a mandate on local agencies or school districts. While schools are required to enforce the CMC, this proposal does not impose new mandates that would require state reimbursement pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of the Government Code. This proposal makes only clarifying changes to existing code language and would have no change in regulatory effect.

ESTIMATE OF COST OR SAVINGS

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(6).

An estimate, prepared in accordance with instructions adopted by Department of Finance, of cost or savings to any state agency, local agency, or school district.

- A. Cost or Savings to any state agency: **NO**
- B. Cost to any local agency required to be reimbursed under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4: **NO**
- C. Cost to any school district required to be reimbursed under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4: **NO**
- D. Other nondiscretionary cost or savings imposed on local agencies: **NO**
- E. Cost or savings in federal funding to the state: **NO**

Estimate: \$0

INITIAL DETERMINATION OF NO SIGNIFICANT STATEWIDE ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON BUSINESSES

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(8).

If the agency makes an initial determination that the adoption/amendment/repeal of this regulation will not have a significant, statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states, it shall make a declaration to that effect.

DSA has made an initial determination that the adoption/amendment/repeal of this regulation will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact on businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

Declaration of Evidence

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(8).

In making the declaration, the agency shall provide in the record of facts, evidence, documents, testimony, or other evidence that the agency relied upon to support its initial determination of no effect.

No facts, evidence, documents, testimony or other evidence has been relied upon to support the initial determination of no effect. The public may submit any information, facts or documents either supporting DSA's initial determination or finding to the contrary.

FINDING OF NECESSITY FOR THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH, SAFETY, OR WELFARE

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(11).

Any regulation that requires a report shall not apply to businesses, unless the agency makes a finding that it is necessary for the health, safety, or welfare of the public that the regulations apply to businesses.

N/A

COST IMPACT ON REPRESENTATIVE PRIVATE PERSON OR BUSINESS

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(9).

Describe all cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action. If no cost impact, provide the following statement:

DSA is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

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

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(10).

The Division of the State Architect 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.

DSA has determined this would have no effect on job creation or elimination within the state.

B. The creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses within the State of California.

DSA has determined this would have no effect on the creation or elimination of new or existing businesses in the state.

C. The expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California.

DSA has determined this would have no effect on the expansion of businesses currently doing business in the state.

D. The benefits of the regulation to the health and welfare of California residents, worker safety, and the state's environment.

These regulations will bring California into compliance with the most recent edition of the national model code (i.e. the 2024 UMC, developed by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials), thereby benefiting the welfare of residents, worker safety, and the state's environment.

ESTIMATED COST OF COMPLIANCE OF STANDARDS THAT WOULD IMPACT HOUSING

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(12).

DSA has determined this proposed action would have no effect on housing.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(13).

DSA has determined that no reasonable alternative considered by DSA or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of DSA would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action. In addition, no reasonable alternative considered by DSA or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of DSA would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provisions of law.

AVAILABILITY OF RULEMAKING DOCUMENTS

Reference: Government Code Sections 11346.5(a)(16) and 11346.5(a)(20).

All of the information upon which the proposed regulations are based is contained in the rulemaking file, which is available for public review, by contacting the person named below. This notice, the express terms and initial statement of reasons can be accessed from the [CBSC website](https://dgs.ca.gov/BSC): dgs.ca.gov/BSC.

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(19).

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the final statement of reasons, once it has been prepared, by making a written request to the contact person named below or at the [CBSC website](https://dgs.ca.gov/BSC): dgs.ca.gov/BSC.

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(21).

DSA shall provide, upon request, a description of proposed changes included in the proposed action, in the manner provided by Section 11346.6, to accommodate a person with a visual or other disability for which effective communication is required under state or federal law. The statement shall note that providing the accessible description of proposed changes may require extending the period of public comment for the proposed action.

CBSC CONTACT PERSON FOR PROCEDURAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(14).

General questions regarding procedural and administrative issues should be addressed to:

Kevin Day, Deputy Director
2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 130
Sacramento, CA 95833
Telephone: (916) 263-0916

PROPOSING STATE AGENCY CONTACT PERSON FOR SUBSTANTIVE OR TECHNICAL QUESTIONS ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BUILDING STANDARDS

Specific questions regarding the substantive or technical aspects of the proposed changes to the building standards should be addressed to:

Primary Contact:

Tav Commins, Senior Mechanical Engineer
Department of General Services, Division of the State Architect
Telephone No.: (916) 322-3579
Tav.commins@dgs.ca.gov
Facsimile No.: (916) 445-3521

Back up Contact:

Eric Driever, Principal Architect
Department of General Services, Division of the State Architect
Telephone No.: (916) 443-9829
eric.driever@dgs.ca.gov