

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION
TO BUILDING STANDARDS OF THE
OFFICE OF STATEWIDE HOSPITAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
REGARDING THE 2025 CALIFORNIA MECHANICAL CODE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PART 4
(OSHPD 01/24)**

Notice is hereby given that the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) on behalf of the DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND INFORMATION (HCAI) proposes to adopt, approve, codify, and publish changes to building standards contained in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24, Part 4, California Mechanical Code. HCAI is proposing building standards related to the construction of hospitals, skilled nursing and intermediate care facilities, licensed clinics, and correctional treatment centers.

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 18949.3. The purpose of these building standards is to implement, interpret, or make specific the provisions of 1250.3, 1418.22, and 129675-130070.

HCAI is proposing this regulatory action based on Health and Safety Code, Sections 1275, 18928, 18929, and 129850.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST

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

Summary of Existing Laws

Health and Safety Code, Section 1250.3 provides the provisions for a Chemical dependency recovery hospital per Assembly Bill 2096 (Chapter 233, Statutes 2022) into regulations.

Health and Safety Code, Section 1275 authorizes HCAI to adopt and enforce building standards for the physical plant of health facilities including hospitals, skilled nursing and intermediate care facilities, licensed clinics, and correctional treatment centers.

Health and Safety Code, Section 1418.22 requires that Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) have an alternative source of power to protect resident health and safety for no fewer than 96 hours for power outages that may result from a public safety power shutoff, an emergency, a natural disaster, or other cause.

Health and Safety Code, Section 18928 requires HCAI to adopt and reference the most recent edition of applicable model codes, national standards, or specifications. The model code, national standard, or specification, with amendments or proposed changes, shall be adopted within one year after the publication date.

Health and Safety Code, Section 18929 requires OSHPD to submit administrative regulations that directly apply to the implementation or enforcement of building standards to the California Building Standards Commission for the Commission's approval and must be adopted pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 18930 and the Government Code (commencing with Section 11346).

Health and Safety Code, Section 18949.3 transfers the responsibilities of HCAI to adopt regulations relating to building standards, to the California Building Standards Commission.

Health and Safety Code, Sections 129675-130070 authorizes HCAI to provide plan review and construction observation for hospitals, skilled nursing facilities

and intermediate care facilities to assure that these health facilities are compliant with the California Building Standards Code.

Health and Safety Code, Section 129850 authorizes HCAI to propose building standards, as necessary, in order to carry out the requirements of the Alfred E. Alquist Hospital Facilities Seismic Safety Act.

Summary of Existing Regulations

Title 24, Part 4, California Mechanical Code (CMC) is based on the 2021 Uniform Mechanical Code with California amendments. The CMC contains regulations pertaining to mechanical system building standards.

Summary of Effect

The proposed action makes editorial and technical modifications to mechanical building standards. The proposed standards provide clarification and consistency within the code, coordination with ASHRAE 170, and alignment with national standards.

HCAI proposes to repeal the 2021 Uniform Mechanical Code, adopt the 2024 Uniform Mechanical Code, and carry forward existing amendments from the 2022 California Mechanical Code, Part 4 of Title 24 California Code of Regulations.

Also included are regulations in accordance with new statutes in the Health and Safety Code: Assembly Bill 2096 (Chapter 233, Statutes of 2022) which adds the requirements for Chemical Dependency Recovery Hospitals (CDRH).

Comparable Federal Statute or Regulations

There are no comparable federal statutes or regulations related to this proposed action.

Policy Statement Overview

HCAI is responsible for the development of building standards for the physical plant of health facilities including hospitals, skilled nursing and intermediate care facilities, licensed clinics, and correctional treatment centers. The intent of this proposal is to provide editorial and minor technical modifications for clarification and consistency within the code; coordination with other parts of Title 24, and align the mechanical code provisions with nationally recognized standards.

Evaluation of Consistency

The proposed regulation is consistent and compatible with existing state regulations.

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 to identify.

MANDATE ON LOCAL AGENCIES OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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

HCAI has determined that the proposed regulatory action WOULD NOT impose a mandate on local agencies or school districts.

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.

HCAI 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.

HCAI has not relied on any other facts, evidence, documents, testimony, or other evidence to make its final determination of no statewide adverse economic impact. The scope of the proposed action is to make editorial and technical modifications to the existing code that are in alignment with health facility licensing requirements and national referenced standards.

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.

HCAI has made an assessment and has determined that a report pursuant to Government Code Section 11346.3(d) is not required.

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:

HCAI 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).

HCAI 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.

The proposed regulations will not create or eliminate jobs within the State of California.

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

The proposed regulations will not create new businesses, or eliminate existing businesses within the State of California.

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

The proposed regulations will not cause expansion of businesses currently doing business with 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.

The proposed building standards and regulations regarding the design and construction of licensed health facilities ensure protection of the public's health, safety, and welfare of California residents through updated amendments. The regulations will not affect worker safety, or the state's environment.

ESTIMATED COST OF COMPLIANCE OF STANDARDS THAT WOULD IMPACT HOUSING

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

These proposed regulations will not result in any cost of compliance that would impact housing.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

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

HCAI has determined that no reasonable alternative considered by HCAI or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of HCAI 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 HCAI or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of HCAI 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).

HCAI 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, Acting Executive Director
California Building Standards Commission
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:

Mia Marvelli, Health Facilities Review, Supervisor, Building Standards Unit
Department of Health Care Access and Information
Office of Statewide Hospital Planning and Development
(916) 440-8300
RegsUnit@hcai.ca.gov

Back up Contact:

Lori Campbell, Staff Services Manager I (Specialist), Building Standards Unit
Department of Health Care Access and Information
Office of Statewide Hospital Planning and Development
(916) 440-8300
RegsUnit@hcai.ca.gov