

2019 California Fire Code Amendments Handbook

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CALIFORNIA AMENDMENTS HANDBOOK

PREFACE

This inaugural edition of the California Amendment Handbook was created to help users understand the purpose and intent of the various California amendment's to the state adopted fire code (Part 9 of Title 24, California Code of Regulations), and to provide a greater degree of standardization in code application throughout the Golden State. Members of the California Fire Service, as well as those in affiliated industries have long expressed a need for this publication. It is our sincere hope that this publication will be as helpful to you as the International Code Council's *IFC® Code and Commentary*. Because of development lead time, this first edition contains the California state agency approved amendments, along with the amendment's Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR), which gives insight to the justification and need for the amendments. A book icon (📖) followed by the year date identifies when the amendment was adopted. All amendments carry forward in the latest edition unless repealed or amended by the state agency. The ISOR comments are noted with (❖) preceding the text.

The California Fire Prevention Officers Association spearheaded this initial effort, and plans to continue to host the development committee for further editions as a companion to the California Code of Regulations triennial code adoption process. It is our intent to further develop the following editions to include additional California amendments, and to provide more in-depth commentary for them; enhancing the utility for the end user.

The California Fire Preventions Officer's Association would like to formally thank all of the fire service members, industry partners, and all other persons who contributed to this process. Special thanks are due to the Office of the California State Fire Marshal for their assistance in this process.

As with any collaborative process such as this, comments and recommendations for future editions are welcomed. Your input will be a valuable resource in improving this publication in the future.

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ABOUT STATE AMENDMENTS

Why Model Codes Are Amended by the State

Those parts of Title 24 that are based on a model code incorporate the model code language along with California Amendments. The California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) and other state agencies have determined that California Amendments are necessary to:

- eliminate conflict with state laws,
- include requirements of state laws, or
- eliminate conflicts with other adopted model codes.

All proposed California Amendments are made available for public review when a code adoption is proposed. Proposed model code text and amendments are subject to discussion during public meetings held by CBSC. Public meeting announcements are available on the CBSC website.

How Amendments Are Shown

California amendments to a model code are illustrated within Title 24 by italic font print. In each part of Title 24 based on a model code there is an explanation of the California Amendments provided near the front of the book. See page v in the 2019 *California Building Code*.

In 1981, a fire in the State Fire Marshal's Office resulted in the significant loss of fire rule-making files. Articles about the fire can be found in Appendix 4 of this book. Future editions of this book will provide the background for the California amendments currently listed as "Reserved."

- 📖 Year amendment adopted
- ❖ ISOR comments

The term "Reserved" is used to indicate tht the ISOR informations needs additional research.

Amendments Versus California Standards

As already discussed, a California Amendment is an amendment to a model code used as the basis for a part of Title 24. Parts 2, 2.5, 3, 4, 5, 9 and 10 are based on model codes. California amendments to the model codes are identified by italic font print within the code text. Parts 1, 6, 8, 11 and 12 are not based on model codes. The contents of these parts are developed by the state agencies and are commonly referred to as being California Standards. Therefore, in Parts 1, 6, 8, 11 and 12, normal (nonitalicized) font is used throughout.

Matrix Adoption Tables

The Matrix Adoption Tables within Title 24 identify adopted model code text, and California Amendments and Standards. Matrix Adoption Tables are provided in Parts 2, 2.5, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10 and 11, at the beginning of each chapter (or article) to identify the model code and/or California Amendment or Standard adoptions by each of the state agencies.

Many model code sections and California Amendments and Standards are only adopted by specific state agencies and thus only apply to specific types of buildings, occupancies, building features or equipment. Each Matrix Adoption Table lists all of the adopted sections. Not all adopted code provisions are applicable to all buildings. There is also a Matrix Adoption Table for those chapters in Title 24 that are California Amendments or Standards in their entirety, such as *California Building Code* (CBC) Chapter 7A and *California Fire Code* (CFC) Chapter 49.

Other CCR Regulations

There are other titles within the California Code of Regulations (CCR) with subjects that relate to buildings:

- Title 8, Division 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 6 for elevator construction requirements
- Title 17 with adoptions by the State Water Resources Control Board
- Title 19 with adoptions by the Office of the State Fire Marshal
- Title 20 with adoptions by the California Energy Commission
- Title 21 with adoptions by the Division of the State Architect 8
- Title 22 with adoptions by the State Water Resources Control Board
- Title 25 with adoptions by the Department of Housing and Community Development for dwellings, and permanent buildings in mobile home and special occupancy parks. See Title 25, Division 1, Chapter 1, Subchapter 1 and Chapters 2 and 2.2

These titles are available online at the website of the California Office of Administrative Law at www.oal.ca.gov. This website also provides helpful information about the CCR.

The State Agencies

The state agencies involved in the development and adoption of building standards for publication in Title 24 are identified in the California Building Standards Law within Health and Safety Code (HSC), Division 13, Part 2.5, as state adopting agencies or state proposing agencies. The state proposing agencies have authority to develop and propose building standards to CBSC. CBSC conducts the public comment periods and public meetings, and adopts the proposed building standards.

City and County Adoption of Title 24

CBSC has developed a guide for local government relating to adoption of Title 24 and amendments thereto; the Guide for Local Amendments of Building Standards is available on CBSC's website. This guide provides information developed specifically for local government about the local adoption process and provides references to applicable provisions of the Health and Safety Code. Amendments by fire protection districts are also explained.

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Title 19 Reprint

Title 19 Reprint

REPRINT OF VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 19, DIVISION 1 INTO VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE 2010 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE

 2010

- ❖ The State Fire Marshal (SFM) proposes to make changes without regulatory effect for various Sections of existing Title 19, California Code of Regulations (CCR) to be brought forward and reprinted or referenced into the 2010 *California Fire Code* (CFC). The SFM has worked with the California Fire Prevention Officers Association, a section of the California Fire Chiefs Association, and identified those code Sections of Title 19, CCR that local fire authorities enforce and have requested to be identified for daily use in the CFC. This project serves as an important piece to the California fire service by providing cohesion for enforcement provisions with a single “inspector friendly” code document.

The reference and reprint of applicable enforcement provisions of Title 19 include the following areas:

- General Fire and Panic Safety Standards—General Provisions
- Tents, Awnings and Other Fabric Enclosures—Site Requirements
- Portable Fire Extinguishers-requirements inspection, placement and mounting
- Fire Extinguishing Systems, Inspection, Testing and Maintenance
- Fire Alarm and Detection Systems

- Fireworks
- Explosives
- Flame Retardant Fabrics and Materials Standards

The above enforcement provisions of Title 19 will be reprinted in the following areas of the CFC:

- Chapter 3 – General Precautions Against Fire
- Chapter 4 – Emergency Planning and Preparedness and Evacuation Drills
- Chapter 5 – Fire Service Features
- Chapter 6 – Building Services and Systems
- Chapter 8 – Interior Finish, Decorative Materials and Furnishings
- Chapter 9 – Fire Protection Systems
- Chapter 10 – Means of Egress
- Chapter 24 – Tents, Canopies and Other Membrane Structures
- Chapter 30 – Compressed Gases
- Chapter 33 – Explosives and Fireworks (Reference)
- Chapter 34 – Flammable and Combustible Liquids
- Chapter 38 – Liquid Petroleum Gases
- Appendix Chapter 4 – Special Detailed Requirements Based on Use and Occupancy

The SFM further proposes to also reference the Title 19 Section in brackets below the appropriate CFC Section to clarify to the enforcement agency where the original Section derived. The above Sections containing California regulations are brought forward with editorial modification only. These amendments do not create a change in regulatory effect.
