# ADDENDUM TO INITIAL EXPRESS TERMS AND INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR PROPOSED BUILDING STANDARDS OF THECALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTREGARDING THE **2022 CALIFORNIA MECHANICAL CODE**,CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PART **4**

# (HCD 01/21)

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

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

## LEGEND for EXPRESS TERMS

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* Repealed model code language appears ~~upright and in strikeout~~
* Repealed California amendments appear in *~~italic and strikeout~~*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

## INITIAL EXPRESS TERMS

**ITEM 12: HCD proposes to adopt Chapter 11 from the 2021 Uniform Mechanical Code into the 2022 California Mechanical Code with the following amendments:**

**CHAPTER 11** **REFRIGERATION**

**SECTION 1104.0
REQUIREMENTS FOR REFRIGERANT AND REFRIGERATION SYSTEM USE.**

**1104.6 Applications for Human Comfort and for Nonindustrial Occupancies**. In nonindustrial occupancies, Group A2, ~~A2L,~~ A3, B1, B2L, B2, and B3 refrigerants shall not be used in high-probability systems for human comfort.

**Rationale:** The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) proposes to continue adoption of the above referenced section with a new California amendment. The 2021 Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC) prohibits the use of A2L type refrigerants. HCD, in coordination with the Office of the State Fire Marshal, proposes to remove this prohibition.

Currently California Mechanical Code (CMC) section 1104.2 exception #1 allows A2L refrigerants to be used in small Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) units that are listed and are under 6.6 lbs. of refrigerant.  An example of current use within the state is an R-32 room air conditioner, which the adopted standard UL 60335-2-40 allows 918 grams. The prohibition of this use would eliminate the use of these commonly used smaller units that utilize A2L refrigerants, which have a much lower global warming potential. Senate Bill 1383 (Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016) mandates the reduction of green gas emissions. The removal of the A2L prohibition of the smaller HVAC units maintains the current regulations for their use.