

# California State Agencies Responsible for Building Codes



**This guide shows the state agencies that are involved in CBSC’s rulemaking process and their areas of authority. By using this guide legislators will be able to contact and include the responsible agency when writing legislation regarding building standards. In addition, the building community and others can find the agency to contact for building code questions.**

The California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) oversees the formal rulemaking processes, adoption, triennial and intervening code cycles and publication of the California Building Standards Code, Title 24, California Code of Regulations, which applies to the design, construction, maintenance, and alteration of all publicly and privately-owned buildings in California. CBSC also has the authority to develop and adopt building standards with application to state-owned buildings, nonresidential green building standards, and for building types that lack specific state agency authority.

**No one state agency has authority for all the required codes or standards for all types of buildings.**

### Several State Agencies

participate with CBSC in the code development and adoption processes. Such as:

- Office of the State Fire Marshal
- Department of Housing and Community Development
- Division of the State Architect
- Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development

### Each Agency is Accountable

for specific areas of the code. For example:

- The Office of the State Fire Marshal oversees fire and panic safety for all occupancies
- The Division of the State Architect develops structural safety for K-12 public schools, community colleges and essential services buildings and accessibility standards for most occupancies
- The Department of Housing and Community Development has authority for residential, permanent buildings in mobile home and special occupancies

### Don’t put into Law:

- Anything that will change with technology advancements or will change for other reasons. It is much easier to change code than law
- Anything with specifications such as measurements. The building community use the code book and may overlook law
- Anything that requires compliance from those who design and construct buildings.

## The Rulemaking Process

**Law:** The process of adopting building standards is governed by requirements in the California Building Standards Law, the Administrative Procedure Act, the California Administrative Code, Title 24, Part 1, Chapter 1 and the Health and Safety Code (HSC) Section 18921. CBSC authority and directives are identified in HSC, Division 13, Part 2.5 commencing with Section 18901.

### 1. Coordinating Council

As mandated by law, CBSC's executive director chairs the Coordinating Council, which consists of representatives from code adopting and proposing state agencies. The council provides for communication and coordination between the state agencies concerning the code development processes.

### 2. State Agencies Participate in Workshops

Each agency relies on interested party stakeholder groups in the process of developing building standards to ensure that the resulting code language is clear, consistent, achievable, and necessary.

### 3. Code Advisory Committees, Public Participation

Code Advisory Committees (CAC) established by CBSC convene once proposed building standards are developed. Six discipline-specific committees, consisting of members that include subject matter experts, review the proposed codes and make recommendations to CBSC during open public meetings. Public comments are accepted during the CAC meetings and again during the 45-day comment period before proposed codes are presented to CBSC for approval. CBSC hears public testimony and takes CAC recommendations.

### 4. Commission Meeting

Ten commissioners are appointed by the governor and represent the public, design professions, the building and construction industry, local government building officials, fire and safety officials, and CBSC is supported by a staff of 14 state employees. The executive director is appointed by the commissioners and is responsible for overseeing and carrying out the day-to-day obligations of the commission.

### 5. Publishing Title 24

Title 24 is published in its entirety every three years and includes current model codes and national standards. An intervening code adoption cycle occurs in between the triennial cycles for the purpose of adopting revisions and new code requirements. Each cycle requires nearly 18 months to complete.

Visit BSC website for the [Rulemaking Timeline](#) to visualize the rulemaking process.

## Title 24

### California Code of Regulations

The California Code of Regulations (CCR) is divided into 28 sections known as “Titles.” Title 24 of the CCR is reserved for state regulations (building standards) that govern the design and construction of all buildings, associated facilities and equipment in the State of California.

- Part 1—California Administrative Code
- Part 2—California Building Code, Vol. 1 & 2
- Part 2.5—California Residential Code
- Part 3—California Electrical Code
- Part 4—California Mechanical Code
- Part 5—California Plumbing Code
- Part 6—California Energy Code
- Part 7—Vacant
- Part 8—State Historical Building Code
- Part 9—California Fire Code
- Part 10—California Existing Building Code
- Part 11—California Green Building Standards Code
- Part 12—California Referenced Standards Code

**Building Code Area****State Agency Responsible for Building Code****A**

Accessibility— Buildings, Structures, Sidewalks, Curbs

Division of the State Architect  
Access Compliance  
(916) 445-8100

Accessibility— Housing except publicly funded

Department of Housing and Community Development  
(800) 952-8356 after: “the options have changed” choose 5 then 2

Acupuncture Offices

Department of Consumer Affairs  
Acupuncture Board  
(916) 515-5200

Apartments

Department of Housing and Community Development  
(800) 952-8356 after: “the options have changed” choose 5 then 2

Appliance Efficiency

California Energy Commission  
In California (888) 838-1467, Outside California (916) 651-7100

Accessory Dwelling Unit

Department of Housing and Community Development  
(800) 952-8356**B**

Barber and Beauty Shop and Cosmetology College

Department of Consumer Affairs  
Bureau of Barbering and Cosmetology  
(800) 952-5210

Building Efficiency

California Energy Commission  
In California (800) 772-3300, Outside California (916) 654-5106

Building Officials

California Building Officials  
(916) 457-1103

Buildings—State Historical

Division of the State Architect  
State Historical Building Safety Board  
(916) 445-8100

Buildings—State Owned

California Building Standards Commission  
(916) 263-0916

# C

## Building Code Area

## State Agency Responsible for Building Code

Camps—Organized

Department of Public Health  
Environmental Management Branch  
(916) 449-5661

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Clinics—Medical

Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development  
(916) 440-8300

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Colleges—Barber and Beauty Shop and Cosmetology

Department of Consumer Affairs  
Bureau of Barbering and Cosmetology  
(800) 952-5210

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Colleges—Community

Division of the State Architect  
Structural Safety  
(916) 445-8100

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Contractor Licensing and Complaints

Contractors State License Board  
In California: (800) 321-2752 Outside California (916) 255-3900

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Dairy Standards

Department of Food and Agriculture  
(916) 900-5008

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Day Care Centers—Fire Safety

Office of the State Fire Marshal  
(916) 568-3800

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Doors and Walls—Rated

Office of the State Fire Marshal  
(916) 568-3800

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Dwellings—Single Family and Accessory Dwelling Units

Department of Housing and Community Development  
(800) 952-8356 after: “the options have changed” choose 5 then 2

**Building Code Area****State Agency Responsible for Building Code**

Elevator Standards

Department of Industrial Relations  
Elevator Safety Unit Headquarters  
(408) 362-2120**E**

Employee Housing Standards

Department of Housing and Community Development  
(800) 952-8356 after: “the options have changed” choose 5 then 5

Essential Services

Division of the State Architect  
Structural Safety  
(916) 445-8100

Exiting Structures Relating to Fire and Panic Safety

Office of the State Fire Marshal  
(916) 568-3800**F**

Factory Built Housing

Department of Housing and Community Development  
Manufactured  
(800) 952-8356 after: “the options have changed” choose 5 then 3

Fire and Panic Safety Standards

Office of the State Fire Marshal  
(916) 568-3800

Fireplaces

Office of the State Fire Marshal  
(916) 568-3800**G**

Gray Water Installation Standards—Nonresidential

California Building Standards Commission  
(916) 263-0916

Gray Water Installation Standards—Residential

Department of Housing and Community Development  
(800) 952-8356

Green Building Standards – Nonresidential

California Building Standards Commission  
(916) 263-0916

Green Building Standards – Residential

Department of Housing and Community Development  
(800) 952-8356

**Building Code Area****State Agency Responsible for Building Code****H**

Hospitals

Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development  
(916) 440-8300

Hotels, Motels

Department of Housing and Community Development  
(800) 952-8356 after: "the options have changed" choose 5 then 2

Houses—Single Family Dwellings

Department of Housing and Community Development  
(800) 952-8356 after: "the options have changed" choose 5 then 2

Insulation Testing Standards

Department of Consumer Affairs  
Bureau of Household Goods and Services  
(916) 999-2041**I-J**

Jail—Local Adult and Juvenile Facility Standards

Board of State and Community Corrections  
(916) 445-5073**M**

Manufactured Housing

Department of Housing and Community Development  
Manufactured  
(800) 952-8356 after: "the options have changed" choose 5 then 3

Marine Oil Terminals

State Lands Commission  
(562) 499-6312

Meat and Poultry Packing Standards

Department of Food and Agriculture  
(916) 900-5004

Mobile Homes—Permits, Inspections and Alterations

Department of Housing and Community Development  
Manufactured  
(800) 952-8356 after: "the options have changed" choose 2 then 2 or 3

Modular—Commercial

Department of Housing and Community Development  
Manufactured  
(800) 952-8356



**Building Code Area****State Agency Responsible for Building Code****P**Permanent Structures in Mobile Home and Special  
Occupancy ParksDepartment of Housing and Community Development  
(800) 952-8356 after: “the options have changed” choose 5 then 2

Pest Control Standards—Structural

Department of Consumer Affairs  
Structural Pest Control Board  
(916) 561-8708 or (800) 737-8188

Poultry, Meat Packing Standards

Department of Food and Agriculture  
(916) 900-5004

Public Schools

Division of the State Architect  
(916) 445-8100**R  
S**

Recycled Water

Department of Water Resources  
(916) 653-5791

Schools—Public

Division of the State Architect  
(916) 445-8100

Single Family Dwellings

Department of Housing and Community Development  
(800) 952-8356 after: “the options have changed” choose 5 then 2

Skilled Nursing Facilities and Related Permits

Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development  
(916) 440-8300

Solar Energy

California Energy Commission  
(800) 772-3300

State Historical Buildings

Division of the State Architect  
(916) 445-8100

State Owned Buildings

California Building Standards Commission  
(916) 263-0916

Swimming Pool Standards—Residential

Department of Housing and Community Development  
(800) 952-8356

**Building Code Area****State Agency Responsible for Building Code****U**

Swimming Pools Standards—Public

Department of Public Health  
Environmental Management Branch  
(916) 449-5661

Universities of California (UC)

California Building Standards Commission  
(916) 263-0916

Universities—California State Universities (CSU)

California Building Standards Commission  
(916) 263-0916**V**

Veterinary Hospital Standards

Department of Consumer Affairs  
Veterinary Medical Board  
(866) 229-0170 or (916) 515-5220**W**

Walls and Doors—Rated

Office of the State Fire Marshal  
(916) 568-3800

Water—Gray—Installation Standards—Nonresidential

California Building Standards Commission  
(916) 263-0916

Water—Gray—Installation Standards—Residential

Department of Housing and Community Development  
(800) 952-8356

Water Heaters—Specified Elements of Residential

Office of the State Fire Marshal  
(916) 568-3800

Water—Recycled

Department of Water Resources  
(916) 653-5791