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# **BULLETIN: APPLICATION OF FIRE LIFE SAFETY PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA EXISTING BUILDING CODE: EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024**

Division of the State Architect (DSA) documents referenced within this publication are available on the [DSA Forms](#) or [DSA Publications](#) webpages.

## **DISCIPLINE(S)**

Fire Life Safety

## **PURPOSE**

This bulletin is intended for design professionals, public school districts serving kindergarten and grades 1 through 12 and community college districts and clarifies application of California Existing Building Code (CEBC) provisions that became effective July 1, 2024.

## **BACKGROUND**

The CEBC provides optional design approaches for existing buildings and establishes minimum requirements to safeguard public health and safety to life and property and are applicable where there are no relevant model code provisions.

### **1. APPLICABILITY TO SCHOOL PROJECTS UNDER DSA JURISDICTION**

For purposes of application, the terms “addition,” “alteration,” “change of occupancy” and “rehabilitation” have the same meaning as specified in Chapter 2 of the CEBC. For terms not defined in the CEBC, refer to Chapter 2 of the California Building Code (CBC) or Section 4-314 of the California Administrative Code.

### **2. CEBC COMPLIANCE**

The direction herein applies to all addition, alteration, change of occupancy, and rehabilitation projects submitted to DSA on or after July 1, 2024, where the design professional chooses to utilize the CEBC.

Compliance methods reflected in Sections 301.2 (Repairs) and 301.3 (Alteration, Addition, Change of Occupancy) have specific and unique requirements that affect design and construction that must be carefully considered by the design professional. For purposes of this bulletin the compliance methods adopted and available for use by the design professional are limited to the Prescriptive Compliance Method outlined in Section 301.3.1 only. Sections 301.3.2, work area compliance method, and 301.3.3, performance compliance method, are not adopted by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

### **3. SECTION 301.3.2, WORK AREA COMPLIANCE METHOD (Ref: CHAPTERS 6-12)**

DSA does not permit application of the work area compliance method.

### **4. SECTION 301.3.3, PERFORMANCE COMPLIANCE METHOD (Ref: CHAPTER 13)**

DSA does not permit application of the performance compliance method.

### **5. CHANGES OF OCCUPANCY (Ref: CHAPTER 10)**

Where a change of occupancy, use, or character from one subgroup to another within the same occupancy classification (i.e., from Group A-3 to Group A-2) as described in Chapter 3 of the CBC is proposed for an existing building or structure, the building area served by the new occupancy subgroup shall comply with the requirements of the CBC.

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Where a change in occupancy classification occurs or where there is a change of occupancy within a space where there is a different fire sprinkler system threshold requirement in Chapter 9 of the CBC that requires an automatic fire sprinkler system (AFSS) to be provided based on the new occupancy, the installation of the AFSS is required within the area of the change of the occupancy and areas of the building not separated by a fire wall from the change of occupancy.

### **6. ADDITIONS (Ref: CHAPTER 11)**

The CEBC provisions in Chapter 11 are applicable for those additions that are not separated from the existing building by a fire wall. Where an addition is proposed to an existing building or structure, the addition is to comply with the code requirements for new construction as outlined in the California Building Code (CBC).

Fire protection systems serving existing fire areas increased by the addition shall comply with Chapter 9 of the CBC.

### **7. PRELIMINARY PROJECT REVIEW MEETINGS**

Preliminary project review meetings are recommended for proposed design applications of the CEBC.

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#### **REFERENCES:**

2022 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 24  
Part 10, California Existing Building Code