

POLICY: ELEVATOR CAB SIZES

Discipline: Fire and Life Safety

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

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Policy is to establish procedures to meet the intent of the California Building Code (CBC) by providing the local fire authority the opportunity to comment on the size of elevator cabs, for construction projects under the jurisdiction of DSA.

POLICY: DSA is the jurisdictional authority, per Government Code Section 14963 and 14964(b), for construction projects at public schools (K-12), community colleges, and State essential services buildings. DSA will make every effort to accommodate the request of the local fire authority but will remain the authority having jurisdiction in all cases and shall make the final determination based upon CBC code requirements, DSA Policy, and Local Fire Authority recommendations.

SCOPE: This Policy sets forth DSA design and submittal requirements for elevators serving three or less stories above grade, or one or more levels below grade, when the submitted elevator cab does not meet the opening and size requirements of CBC, Section 3002.4.3a.

BACKGROUND: CBC, Section 3002.4a replaces the model code language of section 3002.4, and requires that all buildings and structures with one or more passenger service elevators have not less than one elevator designated a medical emergency service elevator (able to accommodate an ambulance stretcher or gurney) that serves all landings and meets the provisions of the section. The stated exceptions are:

1. Elevators in structures used only by maintenance and operating personnel.
2. Elevators in jails and penal institutions
3. Elevators in buildings or structures where each landing is at ground level or is accessible at grade level or by a ramp
4. Elevator(s) in two-story buildings or structures equipped with stairs of a configuration that will accommodate the carrying of the gurney or stretcher as permitted by the local jurisdictional authority.
5. Elevators in buildings or structures less than four stories in height for which the local jurisdictional authority has granted an exception in the form of a written document.

ELEVATOR CAB SIZES

1. ELEVATOR DESIGN:

- 1.1 **Plans:** Elevators shall be sized to accommodate a 24" x 84" ambulance style gurney with not less than 5-inch radius corners in the horizontal position. Where elevators are not ambulance gurney capable, a design alternate method of compliance must be submitted. (See DSA Procedure *PR 18-01: Request for Alternate Design, Materials and Methods of Construction*).
- 1.2 If the proposed elevator(s) cab(s) is/are not sized to meet the minimum requirements per CBC 3002.4.3a, then the designer, architect or engineer in charge of the project shall provide a fully dimensioned site plan indicating the location of all elevators and identifying non-conforming elevators and indicating the corresponding interior cab sizes.
- 1.3 Plans shall indicate the configurations of elevator door openings – side, front or dual sided.
- 1.4 Where stairways are proposed in lieu of minimum elevator cab sizes as outlined in CBC Section 3002.4a exceptions 3, 4 or 5, fully dimensioned stairway details shall be reflected on the plans inclusive of all turns and landings.
- 1.5 Fully dimensioned details of all elevator cab sizes shall be included in the plan review package submitted to DSA.

2. LOCAL FIRE AUTHORITY:

- 2.1 **Review:** Local fire authorities that find proposed elevator locations and/or stairway configurations unacceptable for their rescue or emergency service operations may request that an elevator be configured or sized to accommodate a gurney or ambulance stretcher as noted in CBC Section 3002.4.3a
- 2.2 **Stairways:** Where stairways are utilized as an alternate design method of compliance, the site plans shall be presented to the local fire authority for review, comment, and concurrence with proposed stairway configurations.

REFERENCES:

2010 - 2016 California Building Code (CBC), Sections 3002.4a and 3002.4.3a

A Division of the State Architect (DSA) Policy is a formally established set of governing statements based on law and code objectives, addressing any aspect of DSA's review and approval of plans and specifications and construction oversight programs that is not clearly addressed by code. A Policy also may specify administrative or technical requirements that are not yet addressed within Title 24, but are deemed important and necessary to fulfill code objectives in advance of adoption into the code.
