

**BUILDING STANDARDS COMMISSION**

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## CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS COMMISSION INFORMATION BULLETIN 19-04

**DATE:** June 24, 2019

**TO:** LOCAL BUILDING DEPARTMENTS  
STATE AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS  
CBSC INTERESTED PARTIES

**SUBJECT:** 2019 California Building Standards Code – Now Available

This bulletin provides information regarding the publication of the 2019 California Building Standards Code, including the effective date and application, availability and enforcement responsibility. Information concerning emergency building standards is also addressed herein.

The 2019 California Building Standards Code, Title 24, California Code of Regulations (Title 24) will be published on or before July 1, 2019 and is now available for purchase.

### **Effective Date and Application of the 2019 California Building Standards Code**

January 1, 2020 is the statewide effective date established by the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) for the 2019 California Building Standards Code. In accordance with California Health and Safety Code, Section 18938.5, all applications for a building permit submitted on or after January 1, 2020 are subject to compliance with the 2019 California Building Standards Code. CBSC [Information Bulletin 19-03](#) issued May 23, 2019 provides valuable information relative to permit issuance and the time duration of permits.

The 2016 California Building Standards Code remains in effect and is applicable to all plans and specifications for, and to construction performed where the application for a building permit is received on or before December 31, 2019.

## Availability of the 2019 California Building Standards Code

The 2019 edition of Title 24 may be purchased from the following publishers:

- International Code Council (ICC)  
[ICC Online Store](http://shop.iccsafe.org): shop.iccsafe.org  
Telephone: ICC Store (800) 786-4452
- International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)  
[IAPMO Online Store](http://www.iapm-membership.org): www.iapm-membership.org  
Telephone: (909) 472-4208
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)  
[NFPA Online Store](http://www.nfpa.org): www.nfpa.org  
Telephone: (800) 344-3555

## Enforcement Responsibility

Title 24 is the minimum standard established in law for the design and construction of buildings and structures in California. State law mandates that local government enforce these regulations, or local ordinances with qualified reasonably necessary and generally more restrictive building standards than provided in the California Building Standards Code.

Exceptions are building standards applicable to hospitals, state buildings, public schools and colleges that are subject to enforcement by state agencies. For detailed information regarding enforcement responsibilities refer to Chapter 1, Division 1, commencing with Section 1.1, of the California Building Code, Part 2, Volume 1 of Title 24.

References in law pertaining to enforcement responsibility include but are not limited to Health and Safety Code Sections 17950, 17958.7, 17960, 18938 and 18941.5. Additional information may be found in CBSC's guide [It's your Building Department](#) which was developed to help elected officials and executive managers of city and county governments understand the responsibilities of their building department that are established in state law.

## Amendment by Local Ordinance

Local ordinances that amend Title 24 building standards are subject to requirements of California law and must be enacted and filed for each edition of Title 24. Ordinances generally must exercise more restrictive standards than the building standards approved/adopted by the commission. These amendments must be filed and accepted, as appropriate, with CBSC, the Department of Housing and Community Development or the State Historical Building Safety Board before they are enforceable at the local level. CBSC's [Information Bulletin 19-05](#), being issued shortly, contains additional information and resources to assist local jurisdictions with the local ordinance filing requirements.

References in law pertaining to local ordinance adoption include but are not limited to Health and Safety Code Sections 13143.5, 17950, 17958, 17958.5, 17958.7, 18938, 18941.5 and 18959. The [Local Code Ordinances webpage](#) on CBSC's website has a number helpful resources including the 2019 edition of the [Guide for Local Amendments of Building Standards](#), examples of ordinances that were filed in accordance with state law, and the updated *California Code Adoption for Local Jurisdictions* webinar.

## **Significant Changes to Title 24**

Following are some significant changes in the 2019 edition of Title 24. For matters not listed here, please refer to the margin markings in the new publication, which identify deletions from and additions to the code.

- **Part 1 California Administrative Code (CAC)**

The 2019 CAC, Chapter 1 was amended by CBSC to include requirements for filing and the processing of appeals and petitions, a new section to address certification of delegation of authority, new provisions to address the readoption of emergency building standards, and a new requirement for state adopting agency submittals. Additionally, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) added new definitions and abbreviations for seismic performance categories to Chapters 6 and 7.

- **Part 2 California Building Code (CBC)**

The 2019 CBC is based on the 2018 International Building Code (IBC). OSHPD relocated its remaining provisions from Chapter 34A pertaining to existing structures to the 2019 California Existing Building Code (CEBC), Part 10, Title 24.

- **Part 5 California Plumbing Code (CPC)**

The 2019 CPC is based on the 2018 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC). Chapters 15 and 16, pertaining to alternate water sources and rainwater catchment, in the 2018 UPC were significantly reorganized, specific to alternative water sources for non-potable applications and rainwater catchment systems. Amendments have been made to address the reorganization of the model code.

- **Part 10 California Existing Building Code (CEBC)**

The 2019 CEBC is based on the 2018 International Existing Building Code. Chapters 3 and 4 pertaining to all compliance methods and prescriptive compliance methods were significantly reorganized, therefore it was necessary for the various state agencies that adopt and amend those chapters to propose amendments accordingly. As previously noted herein, the remainder of the California amendments affecting building standards for existing structures are now located within the 2019 CEBC.

Note: In previous publications the California Historical Building Code (Part 8) and the CEBC (Part 10) were made available in the back of the CBC Volume 2 binder. The 2019 California Building Standards Code publication combined Parts 8, 10 and 12 (the California Referenced Standards Code) into one binder in an effort to make the codes more user-friendly and manageable.

## **Emergency Building Standards**

Emergency building standards were adopted into the 2016 California Building Standards Code and carried forward to the 2019 California Building Standards Code as follows:

- **The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD)**

Emergency building standards contained in rulemaking file number OSHPD EF 01/18 will allow hospitals to apply for seismic safety upgrade extensions pursuant to AB 2190 (Chapter 673, Statutes of 2018). AB 2190 authorizes OSHPD to promulgate emergency regulations.

OSHPD proposed emergency administrative standards for the 2016 California Administrative Code, Part 1, Title 24, California Code of Regulations. These regulations were carried forward to the 2019 California Administrative Code, Part 1, Title 24, California Code of Regulations with additional modifications to align with changes related to new acronyms OSHPD 1R and 5, describing the types of facilities that each acronym applies, were added throughout the 2019 edition of the California Building Standards Code.

- **The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)**

Emergency building standards contained in rulemaking file number HCD EF 01/18 modify both the California Building Code and the California Residential Code by adding appendix chapters for local adoption to address emergency shelter housing.

Pursuant to AB 932 (Chapter 786, Statutes of 2017) HCD created emergency regulations via appendix chapters to create a consistent and available source of information by which local agencies may develop emergency housing or shelter ordinances, and to provide consistent standards for HCD to perform its review of local jurisdiction emergency shelter housing ordinance provisions. See the information bulletin issued by HCD at the following link: [HCD Information Bulletins](http://hcd.ca.gov/information-bulletins.shtml) <http://hcd.ca.gov/information-bulletins.shtml>. Upon arrival at the HCD website, select the State Housing Law accordion, select *Information Bulletin 2018-05 (SHL, FBH, CM) – Emergency Housing - Permanent Adoption of Emergency Regulations Effective December 7, 2018 for 2016 California Building Code and 2016 California Residential Code*.

Questions or comments regarding the subject of this information bulletin should be directed to this office at either (916) 263-0916 or [email CBASC](mailto:cbasc@hcd.ca.gov).



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