



## California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	02-10-03	Interpretation #	03-007
Topic	Local Authority to Enforce Building Standards		
Code Section(s)	§13146, Health & Safety Code; §101.17.14, California Building Code (2001 ed)		
Requested by	Thomas Harvey San Francisco Fire Department 698 Second St San Francisco, CA 94107		

***The California Health and Safety Code gives the responsibility for enforcement of building standards adopted by the State Fire Marshal within his/her jurisdiction to the chief of any city or county fire authority. Group R, Division 3 occupancy enforcement may be delegated to either the chief of the fire authority or the chief building official. Shall the local chief of the fire authority enforce the building standards and other regulations of the State Fire Marshal in occupancies such as Groups B, F, H, M, S and U's?***

The applicability of California Building Standards to all occupancies is identified in the California Health and Safety Code by both Section 18938(b) (Building Standards Law) and Section 17950 (State Housing Law). It is the California Building Standards Code, (Title 24, California Code of Regulations) which incorporates the latest editions of the model codes that applies to all occupancies in California, not the model codes in and of themselves.

Section 13146 of the Health and Safety Code outlines the responsibility for the enforcement of the Building Standards Code. Specifically, Section 13146(a) states that a city, county or city and county may delegate the enforcement of fire and panic safety in Group R, Division 3 occupancies to either the chief of the fire authority of the city, county or city and county or the chief building official of the city, county or city and county. In occupancies other than Group R, Division 3 and/or state owned or state occupied, Section 13146(b) gives the authority to enforce the building standards and other regulations of the State Fire Marshal to the chief of the city or county fire department or fire protection district.