



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

Date Issued	02-10-03	Interpretation #	03-015
Topic	Vertical Shafts in Historic High-Rise Buildings		
Code Section(s)	§403.15.1, California Building Code (2001 ed)		
Requested by	Douglas Myers Pasadena Fire Department 199 S Los Robles St #550 Pasadena, CA 91101-2458		

***Must a high-rise office building built in 1915 comply with Section 403.15.1 as it relates to vertical shafts? Does Section 8-407 of the California Historical Code supersede the requirements for existing high-rise buildings?***

Both the CBC and CHC require existing high-rise buildings to meet a reasonable degree of fire and life safety. The local authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) must determine what is reasonable. The means utilized to properly protect existing vertical shafts should be determined on a case-by-case basis based on the hazards and conditions presented by the existing shafts. It is incumbent upon the AHJ to work in a collaborative effort with the building owner to achieve reasonable and adequate fire and life safety.