



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	7/11/08	Interpretation	08-018
Topic	Fire damper requirements in high-rise and state regulated occupancies		
Code Section(s)	2007 California Building Code Section 716.5.4		
Requested by	Lance McCasland, Chief Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting County of Sacramento Sacramento International Airport 6900 Airport Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95837 916-874-0719 916-874-0636		

We are requesting an interpretation of Section 716.5.4 in the 2007 edition of the California Building Code regarding the requirement for fire dampers in a R-1 high-rise.

The 2001 California Building Code (CBC) Sections 713.10 and 713.11 do not require smoke or fire dampers at ducts penetrating the walls separating the guest rooms in a residential occupancy. The 2006 International Building Code (IBC) Section 716.5.4, allows eliminating fire dampers at the ducts penetrating the fire partitions separating guest rooms when the ducts meet the requirements related to duct dimensions, installation of duct and sleeves, duct openings communicating with corridors, and duct termination that are outlined in Section 716.5.4 Exception 3. The 2007 CBC, which is based on the 2006 IBC, has not adopted Section 716.5.4 Exception 3 for high-rise buildings and therefore mandates fire dampers for the fire partitions separating the guestrooms. This is more conservative than the 2001 CBC and likely with no additional life safety advantage. The addition of these fire dampers will have a significant cost implication in construction. Following construction, the maintenance of these dampers could involve additional cost and staff resources. The residential occupancies will be fully sprinkler protected. The automatic fire sprinkler activation temperature is generally 165° F. Therefore, the automatic fire

sprinklers should control the fire prior to activation of these fire dampers, rendering the dampers useless.

- 1. Was it the specific intent of the 2007 CBC to require the fire smoke dampers or was it an oversight? Thank you, in advance for your prompt response to this issue.**

Yes. It was the intent of the 2007 CBC to require fire smoke dampers in high-rise buildings and in occupancies other than Group A, E, H, I and R and other applications listed in Section 111 regulated by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.