



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	August 5, 2015	Interpretation	15-002
Topic	High-Rise Tenant Separation		
Code Section(s)	2013 CBC 708.1, 708.3		
Requested by	Jensen Hughes Steven Dannaway, Fire Protection Engineer		
Date Received	April 01, 2015		

Questions:

1. **For a high-rise building of Type I construction, equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, and with multiple tenant spaces on various stories that are classified as Group B occupancies, does Section 708.3, Exception 3 exempt the walls separating different tenants from the requirement to be constructed as fire partitions?**

Answer: Yes. Section 708.3 Exception 3, allows high-rise buildings equipped throughout with an automatic fire sprinkler system to be permitted to utilize non-fire resistant rated walls for the separation between Group B tenants, if not required by other sections of the CBC.

2. **If Section 708.3, Exception 3, is applicable, are full height walls required between different tenant spaces?**

Answer: No. If 708.3 Exception 3 is used for Group B occupancies, then the wall between tenant spaces are not required to be full height walls, if not required by other sections of the CBC.