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Licensed Residential Care Facilities

Presentation Outline

Presentation Objectives: To provide the student with...

- a) An understanding of the differing roles of Community Care Licensing, the State Fire Marshal and the local Authority Having Jurisdiction
- b) An understanding of the various categories of Residential Care Facilities
- c) An understanding of the various limitations of law applicable to Residential Care Facilities
- d) An understanding of the various requirements applicable to the different levels of care

Presentation Duration:.....**4:00**

Unit 1: Introduction

1-1 Orientation and Administration.....

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Selected CBC Sections

CBC 1.11.4.5 Care facilities.

The primary fire enforcing agency shall complete the final fire clearance inspection for a community care facility, residential care facility for the elderly, or child day care facility within 30 days of receipt of the request for the final inspection, or as of the date the prospective facility requests the final pre-licensure inspection by the State Department of Social Services, whichever is later.

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13235, a fee equal to, but not exceeding the cost of the pre-inspection may be charged for a facility with a capacity to serve 25 or less clients. A fee equal to, but not exceeding the cost of the pre-inspection may be charged for a pre-inspection of a facility with a capacity to serve 26 or more clients.

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13131.5, a reasonable final inspection fee, not to exceed the actual cost of inspection services necessary to complete a final inspection may be charged for occupancies classified as residential care facilities for the elderly (RCFE).

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 1569.84, neither the State Fire Marshal nor any local public entity shall charge any fee for enforcing fire inspection regulations pursuant to state law or regulation or local ordinance, with respect to residential care facilities for the elderly (RCFE) which service six or fewer persons.

1.11.4.6 Requests of the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Whenever a local authority having jurisdiction requests that the State Fire Marshal perform plan review and/or inspection services related to a building permit, the applicable fees for such shall be payable to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

1.11.5 Inspections.

Work performed subject to the provisions of this code shall comply with the inspection requirements of Title 24, Part 2, California Building Standards Code, Appendix Chapter 1, Sections 109.1, 109.3, 109.3.4, 109.3.5, 109.3.6, 109.3.8, 109.3.9, 109.3.10 109.5 and 109.6.

111.5.1 Existing Group I -1 or R occupancies.

Licensed 24-hour care in a Group I-1 or R occupancy in existence and originally classified under previously adopted state codes shall be re-inspected under the appropriate previous code, provided there is no change in the use or character which would place the facility in a different occupancy group.

202 Definitions.

RESTRAINT shall mean the physical retention of a person within a room, cell or holding facility by any means, or within a building by means of locked doors.

SECTION 310 RESIDENTIAL GROUP R

310.1 Residential Group R.

Residential Group R includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for sleeping purposes when not classified as an Institutional Group I. Residential occupancies shall include the following:

R-1 Residential occupancies containing sleeping units where the occupants are primarily transient in nature, including:

Boarding houses (transient)

Hotels (transient)

Motels (transient)

[HCD 1] Efficiency dwelling units (transient)

R-2 Residential occupancies containing sleeping units or more than two dwelling units where the occupants are primarily permanent in nature, including:

Apartment houses

Boarding houses (not transient)

Convents

Dormitories

Fraternities and sororities

Hotels (nontransient)

Monasteries

Motels (nontransient)

Vacation timeshare properties

[HCD 1] Efficiency dwelling units (nontransient)

Congregate living facilities with 16 or fewer occupants are permitted to comply with the construction requirements for Group R-3.

R-2.1 Facilities housing clients on a 24-hour basis in a supervised residential environment that provides personal care services. May contain more than six nonambulatory and/or bedridden clients, including:

Assisted living such as:
Residential care facilities
Residential care facilities for the elderly (RCFE's)
Adult residential facilities.
Congregate living health facilities.
Group homes.
Residential facilities for the chronically ill.
Congregate living health facilities for the terminally ill.
Social rehabilitation facilities such as:
Halfway houses
Community correction reentry centers
Community treatment programs
Work furlough programs
Alcoholism or drug abuse recovery or treatment facilities

R-3 Residential occupancies where the occupants are primarily permanent in nature and not classified as Group R-1, R-2, R-2.1, R-3.1, R-4 or I, including:

Buildings *other than townhouses* that do not contain more than two dwelling units.

Townhouses not more than three stories above grade in height with a separate means of egress.

Adult care facilities that provide accommodations for *clients* of any age for less than 24 hours. *Licensing categories that may use this classification include, but are not limited to: Adult Day-care Facilities, Adult Day-support Center.* [SFM]

Child care facilities that provide accommodations for clients of any age for less than 24 hours. Licensing categories that may use this classification include, but are not limited to: [SFM]

Family Day-care Homes, Day-care Center for Mildly Ill Children, Infant Care Center and School Age Child Day-care Center.

Congregate living facilities with 16 or fewer persons.

R-3.1. [SFM] *This occupancy group may include facilities licensed by a governmental agency for a residentially based 24-hour care facility providing accommodations for six or fewer clients of any age. Clients may be classified as ambulatory, non-ambulatory or bedridden. A Group R-3.1 occupancy shall meet the requirements for construction as defined for Group R-3, except as otherwise provided for in [Section 425](#), Special Provisions For Licensed 24-Hour Care Facilities in a Group R-2.1, R-3.1 or R-4 Occupancy. This group may include:*

Adult Residential Facilities

Congregate Living Health Facilities

Foster Family Homes

Group Homes

Intermediate Care Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled Habilitative

Intermediate Care Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled Nursing

Nurseries for the full-time care of children under the age of six, but not including “infants” as defined in Section 310

Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly

Small Family Homes and Residential Care Facilities for the Chronically Ill

Exception: *Group Homes licensed by the Department of Social Services which provide nonmedical board, room and care for six or fewer ambulatory children or children two years of age or younger, and which do not have any non-ambulatory clients shall not be subject to regulations found in [Section 425](#).*

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13143 with respect to these exempted facilities, no city, county, or public district shall adopt or enforce any requirement for the prevention of fire or for the protection of life and property against fire and panic unless the requirement would be applicable to a structure regardless of the special occupancy. Nothing shall restrict the application of state or local housing standards to such facilities if the standards are applicable to residential occupancies and are not based on the use of the structure as a facility for ambulatory children. For the purpose of this exception, “ambulatory children” does not include relatives of the licensee or the licensee's spouse.

R-4 Residential occupancies shall include buildings arranged for occupancy as residential care/assisted living facilities including more than *six ambulatory clients*, excluding staff.

Group R-4 occupancies shall meet the requirements for construction as defined for Group R-3, except as otherwise provided for in this code.

This occupancy classification may include a maximum six non-ambulatory or bedridden clients (see [Section 425](#), Special Provisions For Licensed 24-Hour Care Facilities in a Group R-2.1, R-3.1, or R-4 Occupancy). Group R-4 occupancies shall include the following:

Assisted living facilities such as: Residential care facilities, Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE's), Adult Residential Facilities, Congregate Living Health facilities, and Group homes.

Social rehabilitation facilities such as: Halfway houses, Community Correctional Centers, Community Correction Reentry Centers, Community Treatment Programs, Work Furlough Programs, and Alcoholism or drug abuse recovery or treatment facilities.

310.2 Definitions.

The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this section and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

AGED HOME OR INSTITUTION [SFM] is a facility used for the housing of persons 65 years of age or older in need of care and supervision. (See definition of "Care and supervision.")

BEDRIDDEN PERSON [SFM] means a person, requiring assistance in turning and repositioning in bed, or being unable to independently transfer to and from bed, except in facilities with appropriate and sufficient care staff, mechanical devices if necessary, and safety precautions as determined in Title 22 regulations, by the Director of Social Services or his or her designated representative.

The Director of Social Services or his or her designated representative shall make the determination of the bedridden status of persons with developmental disabilities, in consultation with the Director of Developmental Services or his or her designated representative.

The Director of Social Services or his or her designated representative shall make the determination of the bedridden status of all other persons with disabilities who are not developmentally disabled.

BOARDING HOUSE. A building arranged or used for lodging for compensation, with or without meals, and not occupied as a single-family unit.

CARE AND SUPERVISION [SFM] means any one or more of the following activities provided by a person or facility to meet the needs of the clients:
Assistance in dressing, grooming, bathing and other personal hygiene.

Assistance with taking medication.

Central storage and/or distribution of medications.

Arrangement of and assistance with medical and dental care.

Maintenance of house rules for the protection of clients.

Supervision of client schedules and activities.

Maintenance and/or supervision of client cash resources or property.

Monitoring of food intake or special diets.

Providing basic services required by applicable law and regulation to be provided by the

licensee in order to obtain and maintain a community-care facility license.

CATASTROPHICALLY INJURED, [SFM] as termed, means a person whose origin of disability was acquired through trauma or non-degenerative neurologic illness, for whom it has been determined by the Department of Health Services Certification and Licensing that active rehabilitation would be beneficial.

CHILD-CARE CENTER [SFM] is any facility of any capacity other than a large or small family day-care home as defined in these regulations in which less than 24-hour-per-day nonmedical supervision is provided for children in a group setting.

CHILD OR CHILDREN [SFM] is a person or persons under the age of 18 years.

CHRONICALLY ILL. [B] [SFM] See "Terminally ill."

CONGREGATE LIVING HEALTH FACILITY (CLHF), [SFM] as termed, is a residential home with a capacity of no more than six beds, which provides inpatient care, including the following basic services: medical supervision, 24-hour skilled nursing and supportive care, pharmacy, dietary, social recreational, and at least provides services for persons who are diagnosed with a terminal illness or who are catastrophically and severely disabled.

CONGREGATE LIVING FACILITIES. A building or part thereof that contains sleeping units where residents share bathroom and/or kitchen facilities.

CONGREGATE RESIDENCE [SFM] is any building or portion thereof that contains facilities for living, sleeping and sanitation, as required by this code, and may include facilities for eating and cooking, for occupancy by other than a family. A congregate residence may be a shelter, convent, monastery, dormitory, fraternity or sorority house, but does not include jails, hospitals, nursing homes, hotels or lodging houses.

DAY CARE [SFM] shall, for the purposes of these regulations, mean the care of persons during any period of a 24-hour day where permanent sleeping accommodations are not provided.

Note: "Day care" shall not be construed to preclude the use of cots or mats for napping purposes, provided all employees, attendants and staff personnel are awake and on duty in the area where napping occurs.

DAY-CARE HOME, LARGE FAMILY [SFM] is a provider's own home which is licensed to provide day care for periods less than 24 hours per day for nine to 14 persons, including children under the age of 10 years who reside at the home.

DAY-CARE HOME, SMALL FAMILY [SFM] is a home which provides family day care to eight or fewer children, including children under the age of 10 years who reside at the home, in the provider's own home, for periods of less than 24 hours per day. Small-family day-care homes are exempted from state fire and life safety regulations other than those state and local standards applicable to Group R, Division 3 occupancies. [See Health and Safety Code, Section 13143 (b).]

DORMITORY. A space in a building where group sleeping accommodations are provided in

one room, or in a series of closely associated rooms, for persons not members of the same family group, under joint occupancy and single management, as in college dormitories or fraternity houses.

FULL-TIME CARE [B] [SFM] shall mean the establishment and routine care of persons on an hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, yearly or permanent basis, whether for 24 hours per day or less, and where sleeping accommodations are provided.

INFANT, [B] [SFM] for the purpose of these regulations, shall mean any child who because of age only, is unable to walk and requires the aid of another person to evacuate the building. In no case shall the term "infant" mean a child beyond two years of age.

MENTALLY RETARDED PERSONS, PROFOUNDLY OR SEVERELY [B] [SFM] shall mean any retarded person who is unable to evacuate a building unassisted during emergency conditions.

Note: The determination as to such incapacity shall be made by the Director of the State Department of Public Health or his or her designated representative pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13131.3.

NON-AMBULATORY PERSONS [B] [SFM] are persons unable to leave a building unassisted under emergency conditions. It includes, but is not limited to, persons who depend on mechanical aids such as crutches, walkers and wheelchairs and any person who is unable to physically and mentally respond to a sensory signal approved by the State Fire Marshal or an oral instruction relating to fire danger.

The determination of ambulatory or non-ambulatory status of persons with developmental disabilities shall be made by the Director of Social Services or his or her designated representative, in consultation with the director of Developmental Services or his or her designated representative. The determination of ambulatory or non-ambulatory status of all other disabled persons placed after January 1, 1984, who are not developmentally disabled shall be made by the Director of Social Services or his or her designated representative.

RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY FOR THE CHRONICALLY ILL (RCF/CI) [SFM] as termed, means a housing arrangement with a maximum capacity of 25 residents that provides a range of services to residents who have chronic, life-threatening illnesses.

RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY FOR THE ELDERLY (RCFE) [SFM] as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 1569.2, shall mean a facility with a housing arrangement chosen voluntarily by persons 60 years of age or over, or their authorized representative, where varying levels and intensities of care and supervision, protective supervision or personal care are provided, based on their varying needs, as determined in order to be admitted and to remain in the facility. Persons under 60 years of age with compatible needs, as determined by the Department of Social Services in regulations, may be allowed to be admitted or retained in a residential care facility for the elderly.

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13133, regulations of the state fire marshal pertaining to Group R, Division 2 occupancies classified as Residential Facilities (RF) and Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE) shall apply uniformly throughout the state

and no city, county, city and county, including a charter city or charter county, or fire protection district shall adopt or enforce any ordinance or local rule or regulation relating to fire and panic safety which is inconsistent with these regulations. A city, county, city and county, including a charter city or charter county may pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13143.5, or a fire protection district may pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13869.7, adopt standards more stringent than those adopted by the state fire marshal that are reasonably necessary to accommodate local climate, geological, or topographical conditions relating to roof coverings for Residential-Care Facilities for the Elderly.

RESIDENTIAL FACILITY (RF) [SFM] as defined in [Section 1502](#) of the Health and Safety Code, shall mean any family home, group care facility, or similar facility determined by the director of Social Services, for 24-hour nonmedical care of persons in need of personal services, supervision, or assistance essential for sustaining the activities of daily living or for the protection of the individual. Such facilities include small family homes and social rehabilitation facilities.

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13133, regulations of the State Fire Marshal pertaining to Group R Occupancies classified as Residential Facilities (RF) and Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE) shall apply uniformly throughout the state and no city, county, city and county, including a charter city or charter county, or fire protection district shall adopt or enforce any ordinance or local rule or regulation relating to fire and panic safety which is inconsistent with these regulations. A city, county, city and county, including a charter city or charter county may pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13143.5, or a fire protection district may pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13869.7, adopt standards more stringent than those adopted by the state fire marshal that are reasonably necessary to accommodate local climate, geological, or topographical conditions relating to roof coverings for Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly.

TERMINALLY ILL [SFM] as termed for an individual, means the individual has a life expectancy of six months or less as stated in writing by his or her attending physician and surgeon.

TRANSIENT. Occupancy of a dwelling unit or sleeping unit for not more than 30 days.

SECTION 425 SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR LICENSED 24-HOUR CARE FACILITIES IN A GROUP I-1, R-3.1 or R-4 OCCUPANCY [SFM]

425.1 Scope. - *The provisions of this section shall apply to 24-hour care facilities in a Group R-2.1, R-3.1, or R-4 occupancy licensed by a governmental agency.*

425.2 General - *The provisions in this section shall apply in addition to general requirements in this code.*

425.2.1 - *Restraint shall not be practiced in a Group R-2.1, R-3.1, or R-4 occupancies.*

Exception: *Occupancies which meet all the requirements for a Group I-3 occupancy.*

425.2.2 - Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13133, regulations of the State Fire Marshal pertaining to occupancies classified as Residential Facilities (RF) and Residential-Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE) shall apply uniformly throughout the state and no city, county, city and county, including a charter city or charter county, or fire protection district shall adopt or enforce any ordinance or local rule or regulation relating to fire and panic safety which is inconsistent with these regulations. A city, county, city and county, including a charter city or charter county may, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13143.5, or a fire protection district may, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13869.7, adopt standards more stringent than those adopted by the State Fire Marshal that are reasonably necessary to accommodate local climate, geological, or topographical conditions relating to roof coverings for Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly.

Exception: Local regulations relating to roof coverings in facilities licensed as a Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE) per Health and Safety Code Section 13133.

425.3 Building height and area provisions.

425.3.1 Group R-2.1, R-3.1 and R-4 shall be constructed in accordance with Table 503.

425.3.2 Limitations—six or less clients. Group R-3.1 occupancies where clients are housed above the first story, having more than two stories in height or having more than 3,000 square feet (279 m²) of floor area above the first story shall not be of less than 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction throughout.

In Group R-3.1 occupancies housing a bedridden client, the client sleeping room shall not be located above or below the first story.

Exception: Clients who become bedridden as a result of a temporary illness as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 1566.45, 1568.0832, and 1569.72. A temporary illness is an illness that persists for 14 days or less. A bedridden client may be retained in excess of the 14 days upon approval by the Department of Social Services and may continue to be housed on any story in a Group R 3.1 occupancy classified as a licensed residential facility.

Every licensee admitting or retaining a bedridden resident shall, within 48 hours of the resident's admission or retention in the facility, notify the local fire authority with jurisdiction of the estimated length of time the resident will retain his or her bedridden status in the facility.

425.3.3 Limitations—seven or more clients. - Group R-4 occupancies where non-ambulatory clients are housed above the first story and there is more than 3,000 square feet (279 m²) of floor area above the first story or housing more than 16 clients above the first story shall be constructed of not less than 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction throughout.

425.3.4 Non-ambulatory elderly clients.- Group R-4 occupancies housing non-ambulatory elderly clients shall be of not less than 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction throughout.

425.4 Type of construction provisions.

425.4.1- Group R-2.1 occupancies are not permitted in non-fire-resistance-rated construction; see Health and Safety Code Section 13131.5.

425.5 Fire-resistance-rated construction provisions.

425.5.1 Smoke barriers required.- Group R-2.1 and R-4 occupancies licensed as a Residential Care Facility (RCF) with individual floor areas over 6,000 square feet (557 m²) per floor, shall be provided with smoke barriers, constructed in accordance with [Section 710](#).

Group R-2.1 occupancies housing bedridden clients shall be provided with smoke barriers constructed in accordance with Section 710 regardless of the number of clients.

When smoke barriers are required, the area within a smoke compartment shall not exceed 22,500 square feet (2090 m²) nor shall its travel distance exceed 200 feet (60 960 mm). Such smoke barriers shall divide the floor as equally as possible.

425.5.2 Smoke partitions.- In Group R-2.1 occupancies where smoke partitions are required, framing shall be covered with noncombustible materials having an approved thermal barrier with an index of not less than 15 in accordance with FM 4880, UL 1040, NFPA 286 or UL 1715.

425.5.3 Independent egress - At least two means of egress shall be provided from each smoke compartment created by smoke barriers. Means of egress may pass through adjacent compartments provided it does not return through the smoke compartment from which means of egress originated.

425.6.1 Interior wall and ceiling finish - Group R-3.1 occupancies housing a bedridden client shall comply with interior wall and ceiling finish requirements specified for Group I-2 occupancies in Table 803.9..

425.7 Fire protection system provisions.

425.7.1 Automatic sprinkler systems in Group R-2.1, R-3.1 and R-4 occupancies. An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed where required in [Section 903](#).

425.7.2 Fire alarm systems in Group R-2.1 and R-4 occupancies. - An approved fire alarm system shall be installed where required in [Section 907](#).

425.7.3 Smoke alarms in Groups R-2.1, R-3.1, and R-4 occupancies. - Smoke alarms shall be installed where required in Section 907.2.11.1.

425.7.4 Hearing impaired. - See Section 907.5.2.3.

425.8 Means of egress provisions.

425.8.1 General. - In addition to the general means of egress requirements of [Chapter 10](#), this section shall apply to Group R-2.1, R-3.1, and R-4 occupancies.

425.8.2 Number of exits.

425.8.2.1 - Group R-2.1, R-3.1, and R-4 occupancies shall have a minimum of two exits.

Exception: Ancillary use areas or occupancies shall have egress as required by [Section 1021](#).

425.8.3 Egress arrangements.

425.8.3.1- Egress through adjoining dwelling units shall not be permitted.

425.8.3.2 Group R-3.1 occupancies housing non-ambulatory clients. - In a Group R-3.1 occupancy, bedrooms used by non-ambulatory clients shall have access to at least one of the required exits which shall conform to one of the following:

1. Egress through a hallway or area into a bedroom in the immediate area which has an exit directly to the exterior and the corridor/hallway is constructed consistent with the dwelling unit interior walls. The hallway shall be separated from common areas by a solid wood door not less than $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch (35 mm) in thickness, maintained self-closing or shall be automatic closing by actuation of a smoke detector installed in accordance with Section 715.4.8.
2. Egress through a hallway which has an exit directly to the exterior. The hallway shall be separated from the rest of the house by a wall constructed consistent with the dwelling unit interior walls and opening protected by a solid wood door not less than $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch (35 mm) in thickness, maintained self-closing or shall be automatic closing by actuation of a smoke detector installed in accordance with Section 715.4.8.
3. Direct exit from the bedroom to the exterior with a door not less than 3 feet in width and 6 feet 8 inches in height. Door shall be capable of opening at least 90 degrees and mounted so that the clear width of the exit way is not less than 32 inches.
4. Egress through an adjoining bedroom which exits to the exterior.

425.8.3.3 Group R-3.1 occupancies housing only one bedridden client. - In Group R-3.1 occupancies housing a bedridden client and not provided with an approved automatic sprinkler system, all of the following shall apply:

1. In Group R-3.1 occupancies housing a bedridden client, a direct exit to the exterior of the residence shall be provided from the client sleeping room.
2. Doors to a bedridden client's sleeping room shall be of a self-closing, positive latching $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch (35 mm) solid wood door. Such doors shall be provided with a gasket so installed as to provide a seal where the door meets the jam on both sides and across the top. Doors shall be maintained self-closing or shall be automatic closing by actuation of a smoke alarm in accordance with Section 715.4.8.
3. Group R-3.1 occupancies housing a bedridden client shall not have a night latch, dead

bolt, security chain or any similar locking device installed on any interior door leading from a bedridden client's sleeping room to any interior area such as a corridor, hallway and/or general use areas of the residence in accordance with [Chapter 10](#).

4. The exterior exit door to a bedridden client's sleeping room shall be operable from both the interior and exterior of the residence.

5. Every required exit doorway from a bedridden client's sleeping room shall be of a size as to permit the installation of a door not less than 3 feet (914 mm) in width and not less than 6 feet 8 inches (2032 mm) in height. When installed in exit doorways, exit doors shall be capable of opening at least 90 degrees and shall be so mounted that the clear width of the exit way is not less than 32 inches (813 mm).

Note: A sliding glass door can be used as an exterior exit doorway as long as it is operable from the inside and outside and the clear width of the exit way is not less than 32 inches (813 mm).

425.8.3.4 Intervening rooms. - A means of exit shall not pass through more than one intervening room. A means of egress shall not pass through kitchens, storerooms, closets, garages or spaces used for similar purposes.

Exception: Kitchens that do not form separate rooms by construction.

425.8.4 Corridors.

425.8.4.1 - Unless specified by Section 425.8.4, corridors serving Group R-2.1 and Group R-4 occupancies shall comply with Section 1018.1.

425.8.4.2 - The minimum clear width of a corridor shall be as follows:

1. Group R-2.1 occupancies shall have 60 inches (1524 mm) on floors housing non-ambulatory clients and 44 inches (1118 mm) on floors housing only ambulatory clients.
2. Group R-4 occupancies shall have 44 inches (1118 mm) on floors housing clients.

Exceptions:

1. Corridors serving an occupant load of 10 or less shall not be less than 36 inches (914 mm) in width.
2. Corridors serving ambulatory persons only and having an occupant load of 49 or less shall not be less than 36 inches (914 mm) in width.

In Group R-2.1 occupancies provided with fire sprinklers throughout and which are required to have rated corridors, door closers need not be installed on doors to client sleeping rooms.

3. Group R-3.1 occupancies shall have 36 inches (914 mm) on floors housing clients.

425.8.4.3 - In Group R-2.1 and Group R-4 occupancies having smoke barriers, cross-corridor doors in corridors 6 feet (1829 mm) or less in width shall have, as a minimum, a door 36 inches (914 mm) in width.

425.8.5 Changes in level.- In Group R-3.1 occupancies housing non-ambulatory clients, changes in level up to 0.25 inch (6 mm) may be vertical and without edge treatment. Changes in level between 0.25 inch (6 mm) and 0.5 inch (12.7 mm) shall be beveled with a slope no greater than 1 unit vertical in 2 units horizontal (50 percent slope). Changes in level greater than 0.5 inch (12.7 mm) shall be accomplished by means of a ramp.

425.8.6 Stairways.

425.8.6.1 - Group R-2.1 occupancies housing more than six non-ambulatory clients above the first floor shall be provided with two vertical exit enclosures. Stairway enclosures shall be in compliance with [Section 1020](#). Exceptions to [Section 1020](#) shall not apply in facilities licensed as a 24-hour care facility.

425.8.6.2 - Group R-3.1 occupancies may continue to use existing stairways (except for winding and spiral stairways which are not permitted as a required means of egress) provided the stairs have a maximum rise of 8 inches (203 mm) with a minimum run of 9 inches (229 mm). The minimum stairway width may be 30 inches (762 mm).

425.8.7 Floor separation. - Group R-3.1 occupancies shall be provided with a non-fire resistance constructed floor separation at stairs which will prevent smoke migration between floors. Such floor separation shall have equivalent construction of 0.5 inch (12.7 mm) gypsum wallboard on one side of wall framing.

Exceptions:

1. Occupancies with at least one exterior exit from floors occupied by clients.
2. Occupancies provided with automatic fire sprinkler systems complying with [Chapter 9](#).

425.8.7.1 Doors within floor separations. - Doors within such floor separations shall be tight fitting solid wood at least $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches (35 mm) in thickness. Door glazing shall not exceed 1,296 inches (32 918 mm) with no dimension greater than 54 inches (1372 mm). Such doors shall be positive latching, smoke gasketed and shall be automatic-closing by smoke detection.

425.8.8 Fences and gates. - Grounds of a residential care for the elderly facility serving Alzheimer's clients may be fenced and gates therein equipped with locks, provided safe dispersal areas are located not less than 50 feet (15 240 mm) from the buildings. Dispersal areas shall be sized to provide an area of not less than 3 square feet (0.28²) per occupant. Gates shall not be installed across corridors or passageways leading to such dispersal areas unless they comply with egress requirements.

425.8.9 Basement exits. - One exit is required to grade level when the basement is accessible to clients.

425.8.10 Delayed egress locks. - See CBC 1008.1.8.6.

425.9 Request for alternate means of protection for facilities housing bedridden clients.- Request for alternate means of protection shall apply to Sections 425 through 425.9. Request for approval to use an alternative material, assembly or materials, equipment, method of construction, method of installation of equipment or means of protection shall be made in writing to the local fire authority having jurisdiction by the facility, client or the client’s authorized representative. Sufficient evidence shall be submitted to substantiate the need for an alternate means of protection.

The facility, client or the client’s representative or the local fire authority having jurisdiction may request a written opinion from the State Fire Marshal concerning the interpretation of the regulations promulgated by the State Fire Marshal for a particular factual dispute. The State Fire Marshal shall issue the written opinion within 45 days following the request.

Approval of a request for use of an alternative material, assembly or materials, equipment, method of construction, method of installation of equipment, or means of protection made pursuant to this section shall be limited to Group R-3.1 occupancies housing a bedridden client.

Approvals made by the local fire authority having jurisdiction and the written opinion by the State Fire Marshal shall be applicable only to the requesting facility and shall not be construed as establishing any precedent for any future request by that facility or any other facility.

425.10 Temporarily bedridden clients. - Clients who become temporarily bedridden as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 1569.72, as enforced by the Department of Social Services, may continue to be housed on any story in Group R-2.1, R-3.1, or R-4 occupancies classified as Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE). Every Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE) admitting or retaining a bedridden resident shall, within 48 hours of the resident's admission or retention in the facility, notify the local fire authority with jurisdiction of the estimated length of time the resident will retain his or her bedridden status in the facility.

TABLE 503 ALLOWABLE HEIGHT AND BUILDING AREAS^a

Height limitations shown in feet above grade plane. Story limitations shown as stories above grade plane. Building area limitations shown in square feet, as determined by the definition of “Area, building,” per story

		TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION								
		TYPE I		TYPE II		TYPE III		TYPE IV	TYPE V	
		A	B	A	B	A	B	HT	A	B
GROUP	HGT(feet)	UL	160	65	55	65	55	65	50	40
	HGT(S)	UL	6 ^h	3 ^g	NP	3 ^g	NP	NP	3 ^g	NP
R-2.1	S	UL	6 ^h	3 ^g	NP	3 ^g	NP	NP	3 ^g	NP

	A	UL	55,000	19,000	NP	16,500	NP	NP	10,500	NP
R-3/R-3.1	S	UL	11	4	4	4	4	4	3	3
	A	UL	UL	UL	UL	UL	UL	UL	UL	UL
R-4	S	UL	11 ^h	4 ^g	4 ⁱ	4 ^g	4 ⁱ	4 ⁱ	3 ^g	2 ⁱ
	A	UL	UL	24,000	16,000	24,000	16,000	20,500	12,000	7,000

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 square foot = 0.0929m².
 UL = Unlimited, NP = Not permitted.

a. See the following sections for general exceptions to Table 503:

1. [Section 504.2](#), Allowable height increase due to automatic sprinkler system installation.
2. Section 506.2, Allowable area increase due to street frontage.
3. Section 506.3, Allowable area increase due to automatic sprinkler system installation.
4. [Section 507](#), Unlimited area buildings.

b. For open parking structures, see Section 406.3.

c. For private garages, see Section 406.1.

d. See Section 415.5 for limitations.

e. [SFM] See Section 408.1.1 for specific exceptions for one-story Type IIA, IIIA or VA construction.

f. Restraint shall not be permitted in any building except in Group I-3 occupancies constructed for such use (See Section 408.1.2)

g. Nonambulatory persons shall be limited to the first two stories.

h. Nonambulatory persons shall be limited to the first five stories.

i. Nonambulatory elderly clients are not permitted to buildings of these types of construction. See sections 425.3.3 and 425.3.4.

903.2.8 Group R. [F]

An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3 shall be provided throughout all buildings with a Group R fire area.

Exceptions:

1. Existing Group R-3 occupancies converted to Group R-3.1 occupancies not housing bedridden clients, not housing nonambulatory clients above the first floor and not housing clients above the second floor.

2. Existing Group R-3 occupancies converted to Group R-3.1 occupancies housing only one bedridden client and complying with section 425.8.3.3.

3. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13113, occupancies housing ambulatory children only, none of whom are mentally ill or mentally retarded, and the buildings or portions thereof in which such children are housed are not more than two stories in height, and buildings or portions thereof housing such children have an automatic fire alarm system activated by approved smoke detectors.

4. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13143.6, occupancies licensed for protective social care which house ambulatory clients only, none of whom is a child (under the age of 18 years), or who is elderly (65 years of age or over).

When not used in accordance with Section 504.2 or 506.3, an automatic sprinkler system

installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.2 shall be allowed in Group R-2.1 occupancies.

An automatic sprinkler system designed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.3 shall not be utilized in Group R-2.1 or R-4 occupancies

SECTION 906 PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

906.1 General. [F] -Portable fire extinguishers shall be installed in the following locations:

1. In new and existing Group R-2.1, R-3.1 and R-4 occupancies.
2. Within 30 feet of commercial cooking equipment.
3. In areas where flammable or combustible liquids are stored or used.
4. Where required by the California Fire Code sections indicated in Table 906.1.
5. Where required by the California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1.

SECTION 907 FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS

907.2.9.3 Licensed group R-2.1 occupancies. [F] - *Licensed Group R2.1 occupancies housing more than six non-ambulatory, elderly clients shall be provided with an approved manual and automatic fire alarm system.*

Exceptions: *Buildings housing non-ambulatory clients on the first story only and which are protected throughout by the following:*

1. *An approved and supervised automatic sprinkler system, as specified in Sections 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2, which upon activation will initiate the fire alarm system to notify all occupants.*
2. *A manual fire alarm system.*
3. *Smoke alarms required by Section 907.2.11.*

907.2.10 Group R-4. [F] - Fire alarm systems and smoke alarms shall be installed in Group R-4 occupancies as required in Sections 907.2.10.1 through 907.2.10.3.

907.2.10.1 Fire alarm system for Group R-4 occupancies. [F] - *An approved manual and automatic fire alarm system shall be installed in Group R-4 occupancies.*

Exceptions:

1. *Protective social care occupancies housing persons none of whom are physically or mentally handicapped or non-ambulatory and which provide supervisory services such as alcoholism or drug abuse recovery or treatment facilities, halfway houses operated by the California Department of Corrections, and similar facilities and are provided with a manual fire alarm box which will actuate a distinctive fire alarm signal that can be heard throughout the facility.*
2. *Protective social care facilities provided with an automatic sprinkler system which complies with Chapter 9 and are provided with a manual fire alarm box which will actuate a distinctive fire alarm signal that can be heard throughout the facility.*

907.2.10 Single- and multiple-station smoke alarms. [F] - Listed single- and multiple-station smoke alarms complying with UL 217 shall be installed in accordance with the provisions of this code and the household fire-warning equipment provisions of NFPA 72.

Exception: *For Group R occupancies. A fire alarm system with smoke detectors located in accordance with this section may be installed in lieu of smoke alarms. Upon actuation of the detector, only those notification appliances in the dwelling unit or guest room where the detector is actuated shall activate.*

907.2.10.1 Where required. [F] - Single- or multiple-station smoke alarms shall be installed in the locations described in Sections 907.2.10.1.1 through 907.2.10.1.3.

907.2.10.1.1 Group R-1. [F] - Single- or multiple-station smoke alarms shall be installed in all of the following locations in Group R-1:

1. In sleeping areas.
2. In every room in the path of the means of egress from the sleeping area to the door leading from the sleeping unit.
3. In each story within the sleeping unit, including basements. For sleeping units with split levels and without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level provided that the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level.
4. *In enclosed common stairwells of multiple-dwelling complexes.*

907.2.11.2 Groups R-2, R-3, R-3.1, R-4 and R2.1. [F] Smoke Alarms - Single- or multiple-station smoke alarms shall be installed and maintained in Groups R-2, R-3, R-3.1, R-4 and R2.1, regardless of occupant load at all of the following locations:

1. On the ceiling or wall outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms.
2. In each room used for sleeping purposes.
3. In each story within a dwelling unit, including basements but not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics. In dwellings or dwelling units with split levels and without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level provided that the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level.
4. *In enclosed common stairwells of apartment complexes and other multiple-dwelling complexes.*
5. *In a Group R-3.1 occupancy, in addition to the above, smoke alarms shall be provided throughout the habitable areas of the dwelling unit except kitchens.*

907.2.9.3 Group R2.1. [F] - Single- or multiple-station smoke alarms shall be installed and maintained in sleeping areas in Group occupancies.

Exception: Single- or multiple-station smoke alarms shall not be required where the building is equipped throughout with an automatic fire detection system in accordance with Section 907.2.6.

907.2.10.1.4 Group I-4 occupancies. - *Large-family day-care homes shall be equipped with State Fire Marshal approved and listed single-station residential-type smoke alarms.*

907.2.10.1.5 Group R-3.1. - *In all facilities housing a bedridden client, smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring when such wiring is served from a commercial source and shall be equipped with a battery backup. Smoke alarms shall be electrically interconnected so as to cause all smoke alarms to sound a distinctive alarm signal upon actuation of any single smoke alarm. Such alarm signal shall be audible throughout the facility at a minimal level of 15 db above ambient noise level. These devices need not be interconnected to any other fire alarm device, have a control panel, or be electrically supervised or provided with emergency power.*

907.2.10.2 Power source. - *In new construction and in newly classified Group R-3.1 occupancies, required smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring where such wiring is served from a commercial source and shall be equipped with a battery backup. Smoke alarms shall emit a signal when the batteries are low. Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than as required for over-current protection.*

Exception: Smoke alarms are not required to be equipped with battery backup in Group R-1 where they are connected to an emergency electrical system.

907.2.10.3 Interconnection. [F] - *Where more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed within an individual dwelling unit in Group R-2, R-3, R-3.1, or R-4, or within an individual dwelling unit or sleeping unit in Group R-1, the smoke alarms shall be interconnected in such a manner that the activation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the individual unit. The alarm shall be clearly audible in all bedrooms over background noise levels with all intervening doors closed.*

907.2.10.4 Acceptance testing. [F] - *When the installation of the alarm devices is complete, each detector and interconnecting wiring for multiple-station alarm devices shall be tested in accordance with the household fire warning equipment provisions of NFPA 72.*

State Fire Marshal Interpretations Care Facilities

Date Issued 04-21-2000

Interpretation 00-003

Topic: **Exiting** from R, Division 2 Occupancies housing non-ambulatory clients.

Code Section(s): 1007.6.3.2.2, California Building Code (1998)

Requested by: Mary Miller, Fire Marshal, Modesto Fire Department, 1010 Tenth Street, Modesto, CA 95353

1. Can a person exit through two intervening rooms in a Group R, Division 2 Occupancy housing six or less non-ambulatory clients?

One of the two required exits can be through a hallway and then to another bedroom that has an exit directly to the outside. Furthermore, the code also allows the exit to be through an adjacent room (such as a bathroom) and then through a bedroom with direct exit to the outside.

2. Is it the intent of the code to allow both of the required exits to be through intervening rooms?

No. the preferred means of exiting from the bedrooms housing non-ambulatory clients should be directly to the exterior. However, when this is not practical, the exiting may be through an intervening room.

3. Is the hallway considered an intervening room?

The hallway would not be considered an intervening room in this specific case.

4. Can section 1004.2.2 be ignored because section 1007.6.3.2.2 is more specific?

Section 1007.6.3.2.2 is the only section applicable for this issue.

5. Can we apply these requirements to ambulatory facilities?

No. In ambulatory facilities housing six or fewer clients, exiting is required as per a Group R Division 3 Occupancy.

6. Is there a provision for door width for a non-ambulatory client in a wheel chair so they can move freely about a care home?

It appears that everything we find references occupant loads of 10 or more. The code appears to be silent in this regard as it speaks to door widths of rooms housing 10 or more. The intent of the code is to allow the clients to move about freely. Consequently, the doors from the rooms housing non-ambulatory clients must be adequate to accommodate the width of the wheelchair. Since there is no standard size of wheelchair, the door width will have to depend on the particular client housed in the room.

7. Is there a provision for door width for ambulatory clients?

There is not specific code reference for this issue. The requirements would be those that are applicable to a Group R, Division 3 Occupancy.

Date Issued 08-07-00

Interpretation 00-011

Topic: Group R, Division 2 **Accessibility**

Code Section(s) §13146, Health and Safety Code, Chapter 11, California Building Code (1998 ed.)

Requested by Paul Olkowski, San Mateo City Fire Department, 1941 O'Farrell St. #102, San Mateo, CA 94403-1388

1. Is it the responsibility of the local fire authority to enforce all regulations for Group R, Division 2 Occupancies, including plan review for new facilities?

The California Health and Safety Code, Section 13146, requires that the local fire authority enforce fire and panic regulations in various occupancies. This includes

plan review for compliance with SFM regulations. However, we would encourage the fire authority to work closely with the local building officials so that a comprehensive review of all applicable standards is rendered — including locally adopted ordinances.

2. Is a Group R, Division 2 facility housing non-ambulatory clients required to comply with the requirements of Chapter 11 concerning Accessibility (e.g., fire alarm strobe lights, exterior ramps, 36-inch hallways and doors, leverstyle door hardware, etc.).

The State Fire Marshal only adopted certain sections of Chapter 11B of the California Building Code in its entirety. Since Chapter 11B is specific to public buildings, those sections adopted by the SFM are not applicable to R-2 Occupancies. Therefore, the accessibility standards applicable to Group R, Division 2 facilities are those adopted at the local level for residential applications as found in Chapters 11 and 11A.

3. When a single-family dwelling applies for a permit to convert the occupancy to a non-ambulatory community care home, is it the intent of the State Building Code to provide the non-ambulatory residents the same accessibility options as for any other occupant?

Please refer to the answer to the prior question as it applies to this question.

Date Issued 11-20-00

Interpretation # 00-017

Topic **Fire Drills in Group R, Division 2 Occupancies**

Code Section(s) §3.10, Title 19, California Code of Regulations

Requested by: Gregory Lake, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, 2101 Hurley Way Sacramento, CA 95825-3208

Are fire drills required by State regulation in a Group R, Division 2.2.1 Occupancy?

No. There are no requirements for monthly fire drills for a Group R, Division 2 Occupancy. Section 3.10 of Title 19 speaks only to the evacuation and relocation of occupants. When this code section addresses “fire drills”, it specifically is directed at those occupancies that **do** require fire drills (e.g., schools). In addition, State Law provides that requirements for Group R, Division 2 Occupancies housing six or less cannot be amended by local ordinance.

Date Issued 11-20-00

Interpretation # 00-019

Topic **Accessibility Standards in Group R, Division 2 Occupancies**

Code Section(s): Chapters 10 and 11, California Building Code (1998 ed)

Requested by: Gregory Lake, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District
2101 Hurley Way, Sacramento, CA 95825-3208

In a Group R, Division 3 dwelling, is it the intent of the Code to require the following before it may house a Group R, Division 2.2.1 Occupancy:

- 1. Interior “changes in level” ramps with handrails per CBC for access to common areas not in exit path;**
- 2. 32-inch wide doors to the bathroom, commode room, and other common use areas not in the exit path from the sleeping areas as noted in Section 1007;**
- 3. Consideration of every common-area door as a required exit door from that room;**
- 4. Lever hardware on the doors and gates.**

No. Common areas are specific to Chapter 11 only and not intended to be inter-changeable with other sections of the Code.

Date Issued 06-17-02

Interpretation 02-014

Topic: **Location of Property R-6** Occupancies

Code Section(s) §317A, California Building Code (1998)

Requested by Robert Bohman, Deputy Fire Marshal, Alameda County Fire Department
2241 Redwood Road, Castro Valley, CA 94546

Is it the intent of CBC Section 317A to allow setback from the property line of only three feet for a Group R, Division 6.2 occupancy if the building is designed with a non-rated exterior wall and unprotected openings even when the occupancy load is greater than ten?

No. Section 316A states that a Group R, Division 6.2 occupancy shall not exceed the type of construction as specified for occupancies classified Group R Division 1 occupancy.

Date Issued 06-17-02

Interpretation 02-025

Topic: **Changes in Level in Corridors and Hallways R-2** Occupancies

Code Section(s): §1007.6.3.4, California Building Code (1998)

Requested by: Bryan Wadlington, San Miguel Fire Protection District, 2850 Via Orange
Way Spring Valley, CA 91978-5331

Since all required exits in Group R, Division 2 occupancies must go to a public way, is it the intent of the State Fire Marshal that Section 1007.6.3.4 of the California Building Code (1998) be used for the entire path of travel to the public way or is this section only intended to apply to the interior hallways and corridors?

Section 1007.6.3.4 applies specifically to the interior exiting system.

Date Issued 12-05-02

Interpretation 02-039

Topic: **Changes in Elevations** for Group R, Division 2 Occupancies

Code Section(s): Section 1007.6.3.4, California Building Code (1998 ed)

Requested by: Steve Holtrust: Ontario Fire Department, 415 East "B" Street, Ontario, CA
91764

Does Section 1007.6.3.4 apply to all Group R, Division 2 occupancies or only those that have non-ambulatory clients?

No. This section would only apply for non-ambulatory clients as defined in Section 215, California Building Code.

Date Issued 12-05-02

Interpretation 02-046

Topic: **Exiting** from Group R-2.2.1 with Non-Ambulatory Clients

Code Section(s): Section 1007.6.3.2.1, California Building Code (1998 ed)

Requested by: Colleen Balch, Carlsbad Fire Department, 1635 Faraday Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92008

1. Does Section 1007.6.3.2.1 apply to Group R, Division 2.2.1 occupancies that house non-ambulatory clients?

Yes. Section 1007.6.3.2.1 applies to the bedrooms used by non-ambulatory clients in Group R, Division 2.2.1 occupancies built of non-rated construction.

2. How do you apply section 1007.6.3.2.4? It appears that the clients are exiting through more than one intervening room if they exit through the hallway.

For purposes of determining the number of intervening rooms, the room that the clients exit from is not counted and the hallway is not considered a room for purposes of exiting in this

type of occupancies. Clients may exit from a bedroom to the hallway and through another bedroom that has a direct exit to the exterior. They may not exit from the hallway into a common living area such as an entryway or living room.

Date Issued 12-05-02

Interpretation 02-050

Topic: **Door Width** in Group R, Division 2 Occupancies

Code Section(s): Section 1003.3.1.3, California Building Code (1998 ed)

Requested by: Ralph Crane, Fire Marshal, Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District
P.O. Box 807, Rancho Cucamonga, CA.91729-0807

Is it the intent of Section 1003.3.1.3 to require that the net unobstructed door width, WITH NO EXCEPTIONS, be no less than 32” through bedroom doors on an existing Group R, Division 3 occupancy being converted for use as a Group R, Division 2.2.1 facility?

No. Section 1003.3.1.3 is specific to occupancies serving 10 or more clients. An existing Group R, Division 3 being converted to a Group R, Division 2.2.1 does not fall into this criteria and can have exit doors with a clear exit width of 28 inches as the clients will all be ambulatory.

Date Issued 12-05-02

Interpretation 02-056

Topic: **R-2 Occupancies**

Code Section(s): Section 506 (#6), California Building Code (1998 ed)

Requested by: Pedro Garcia/Steve Kuchenski, 310 North Lake Avenue #920, Pasadena, CA 91101-4129

Does Provision #6 in Section 506 refer to Section 904.2.9 or does it refer to Group R, Division 2 occupancies referenced in Section 904.2.10?

Provision #6 refers to Group R, Division 2 occupancies. Provision #6 is a misprint and should refer to Section 904.2.10 as this section is where the sprinkler requirements for Group R, Division 2 occupancies reside.

Date Issued 12-05-02

Interpretation 02-057

Topic: **Exiting in RCFE's**

Code Section(s): §1007.6, California Building Code (1998 ed)

Requested by: Aleyda and Jeffrey Hanson, Elder Eden, 1226 Bella Oaks Lane
Napa, CA 94558

Are Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE) which have six or fewer residents limited to direct exiting from each resident sleeping room?

No. RCFEs that house six or fewer ambulatory residents may have the type of exiting allowed for Group R, Division 3 occupancies (single family dwellings.) RCFE's that house six or fewer non-ambulatory residents may have any of the following types of exiting from each sleeping room:

- a. Direct exit to exterior from bedroom.
- b. Egress through an adjoining bedroom that has a direct exit to exterior.
- c. Egress through hallway/corridor that has an exterior exit
- d. Egress through a hallway/corridor or area and into a bedroom that has a direct exit to exterior.

Date Issued 12-05-02

Interpretation 02-058

Topic: **Group R, Division 2.1.1 Facilities**

Code Section(s): Sections 310.9 & 310.10.2, California Building Code (1998 ed)

Requested by: Stephen Hart, NASIP, 1050 Eileen Way, Sacramento, CA 95831-5812

1. Is an existing (April 1991) Residential Care Facility (R-2.1.1) that has had no change to either their license or to the building structure required to have smoke detectors in the bedrooms?

No. There were no smoke detector requirements in sleeping rooms at the time this facility was licensed.

2. Is at least one manual pull station also required?

No. There were no pull station requirements for facilities housing six or less at the time this facility was licensed.

Date Issued 02-10-03

Interpretation 03-002

Topic: **Area of Rescue Assistance**

Code Section(s): §1114B.2.1, California Building Code (1998 ed)

Requested by: Sid Akhzar, 5567 Reseda Blvd #209, Tarzana, CA 91358

Both Section 1114B of the 1998 California Building Code and ADAAG 4.1.3(g) agree that a “supervised automatic sprinkler system” overrides the requirement for Area of Rescue Assistance. Does the State Fire Marshal agree that any occupancy can dispense with rescue assistance by installing a supervised automatic sprinkler system?

Yes. Exception #1 of Section 1114B.2.1 states that areas of evacuation assistance are not required in buildings or facilities having a supervised automatic sprinkler system.

Date Issued 02-10-03

Interpretation 03-005

Topic: **Residential Care Occupancies.**

Code Section(s): §310.1, California Building Code (2001 ed)

Requested by: Michelle Douglas, Colton Fire Department, 303 “E” St, Colton, CA 92324

Is a small family home having a licensed capacity of four infants as defined in Section 310 classified as a Group R, Division 2.2 occupancy?

No. The total capacity of the facility you describe is less than six clients. Since infants can not be defined as non-ambulatory due to age per Section 210, the facility more closely resembles a Group R, Division 2.2.1 occupancy.

Date Issued: 03-25-04 REVISED

Interpretation 03-018

Topic: **Group R, Divisions 2.1.1 and 2.2.1**

Code Section(s): §1267.8,13143,13195,13113.7(2) and 1275 California Health and Safety Code

Requested by: K Chin, Altos Care, Inc.2492 Aram Ave. San Jose, CA 95128

1. Considering the provisions of Section 1267.8(a) of the California Health and Safety Code, are commercial or residential standards for fire and life safety, egress and accessibility applicable to Group R, Division 2.1.1 occupancies when the code is interpreted by local plan checkers and fire inspectors?

Only those regulations that have been adopted by the State Fire Marshal shall apply to fire and life safety, egress and accessibility.

2. Should local fire inspectors or planners cite commercial or residential standards when inspecting a Group R, Division 2.1.1 occupancy?

No. Commercial standards do not apply to Group R, Division 2 occupancies. The Health and Safety Code requires that these facilities model as closely as possible to a Group R, Division 3 Occupancy.

3. Considering the provisions of Section 1267.8 of the Health and Safety Code, what are the closest occupancy standards for life safety, egress and accessibility that “special occupancy” fire department planners and inspectors should be using when inspecting a Group R, Division 2.1.1 occupancy (i.e. can local fire departments apply commercial standards)?

Fire inspectors and plan checkers shall only apply local ordinances for restrictions on building heights, setbacks, lot dimensions, or placement of signs as long as such restrictions are identical to those applied to other single-family residences.

4. Considering Section 13143 of the Health and Safety Code, in Group R, Division 2.2.1 occupancies, are illuminated exit signs required above all exit doors and in hallways to indicate the exit path of egress (including illuminated exit signs in all client bedrooms that have a direct exit to the exterior and illuminated hallway exit signs indicating which bedrooms have direct exits to the exterior)?

No. Exit signs indicating which bedrooms have direct exits to the exterior are not required in this type of occupancy.

5. Considering Section 13143.8 of the Health and Safety Code, can the local fire department require stricter “commercial” fire and life safety standards for egress, life safety and accessibility in Group R, Division 2.1.1 occupancies than required by the SFM?

No.

6. Considering Section 13195 of the Health and Safety Code, in Group R, Division 2.2.1 occupancies (ambulatory) are fire sprinklers and a monitored fire sprinkler system that conform to NFPA #13-D required? If required, does the monitored sprinkler system need two dedicated telephone lines for monitoring? Does the monitored system require quarterly inspections by the alarm company (equivalent to a commercial system)?

No. There are no requirements in the Health and Safety Code or in the California Building Code requiring a sprinkler system in Group R, Division 2.2.1 occupancies that house six or fewer clients.

7. Considering Section 13113.7 (2) of the Health and Safety Code, can the local building or fire departments require in-room smoke detectors in all rooms in Group R, Division 2.1.1 facilities that already have monitored fire alarms with a NFPA-13D fire sprinkler system? Has this requirement been waived by the State Fire Marshal?

No. Local ordinances are not applicable to Group R, Division 2.1.1 occupancies. Only those regulations adopted by the State Fire Marshal are applicable. The requirements of Section 13113.7 (2), Health and Safety Code have not been waived and they are provided for in the smoke alarms required by Section 310.9.1.1 of the California Building Code (2001 ed)

8. Considering Section 19956 of the Health and Safety Code, are handrails required on ADA compliant walkways sloped 1:20 or greater? Can handrails be required by the Department of Health Services for licensing purposes? Are handrails required on landings that are less than 30 inches above grade?

The State Fire Marshal does not regulate the application of American with Disabilities Act.

9. Considering Section 1275 of the Health and Safety Code, can the Department of Health Services amend or apply stricter (e.g. commercial) fire standards for egress and life safety for Group R, Division 2.1.1 than what is specified by the State Fire Marshal (including accessibility/ramp requirements, etc.)?

No.

Date Issued 03-18-03**Interpretation 03-019**

Topic: **Exiting** from R-2.2.1

Code Section(s) §1007.6.3.2.2, California Building Code (2001 ed)

Requested by: John Gifford, John Gifford Construction, PO Box 2470, Porterville, CA 93258

1. In Group R, Division 2.2.1 occupancy housed in a one-story single-family residence where the entry door is the primary exit, is it the intent of §1007.6.3.2.2 to require direct or semi-direct exit from each client bedroom or does this just apply to those bedrooms which contain non-ambulatory clients?

No. The exiting requirements of §1007.6.3.2.2 apply to the bedrooms of Group R, Division 2.2.1 occupancies used by non-ambulatory clients only. It is not the intent of this section to apply these requirements to ambulatory clients.

2. If all of the clients in a single-story Group R, Division 2.2.1 occupancy are ambulatory, wouldn't the window escape method specified in §310.4 provide the second required exit?

No. All Group R, Division 2 occupancies must have at least two exits. The second required exit cannot be a window. It must be an exit door.

Date Issued 10-21-03**Interpretation 03-025**

Topic: **Group R, Division 2.2.1 and Group R, Division 2.1.1 Occupancies**

Code Section(s): §1007.6.3.1.1, California Building Code (2001 ed)

Requested by: Mike Bell, Rancho Cucamonga Fire Department, 10500 Civic Center Drive, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Does §1007.6.3.1.1 apply to existing single-family units (Group R, Division 3 occupancies) that convert to a Group R, Division 2.1.1 or Division R2.2.1? If so, must the exits be the existing front and back door or can the occupant install a new exit(s) that meet the code and leave the existing doors as is?

Yes. For a Group R, Division 2.2.1, the exits can be the front and back door as long as they meet the requirements of §1007.6.3.2.3 which states, "A means of exit shall not pass through kitchens, storerooms, closets or spaces used for similar purposes." For a Group R, Division 2.1.1, additional exits may have to be provided to comply with the direct or semi-direct requirements of §1007.6.3.2.2 for non-ambulatory clients.

Date Issued 10-21-03**Interpretation 03-028**

Topic: **Fire Alarm Devices and Dead Bolts in Group R, Division 3**

Code Section(s): §310.15.4 and §1003.3.1.8, California Building Code

Requested by: Mark Braley, Riverside County Fire Department, 210 W. San Jacinto Ave., Paris, CA 92570

1. Must fire alarm devices referenced in §310.15.4 be State Fire Marshal approved and listed?

No. §310.15.4 requires only a device suitable for sounding a fire alarm --- not a listed fire alarm device. Therefore, any device approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (e.g., bell, whistles, air-horn, etc.) may be used. However, when the device installed is a fire alarm pull station that would normally be part of a fire alarm system, then these components must be SFM approved and listed.

2. Does the operation of a dead bolt used in addition to the locking door hardware require special knowledge or effort? Must the door hardware and dead bolt be interconnected so that they release with single action?

No. In individual dwelling units of Group R, Division 3 occupancies are permitted

to secure the entry door with a night latch, dead bolt or security chain.

Date Issued 10-21-03

Interpretation 03-034

Topic: **Group R, Division 2 Occupancies Located Above the First Floor**

Code Section(s): §3.23, Title 19, California Code of Regulations

Requested by: Walt McDermott, 1003 Via Mil Cumbres, Solana Beach, CA 92075

In Group R, Division 2 and Group R, Division 6 occupancies that house non-ambulatory persons above the first floor, must the buildings be of Type I- FR or Type II- FR construction as specified in §3.23?

No. The issue of non-ambulatory persons above the first story is addressed in law [§13131.5 (b), California Health and Safety Code] for facilities housing more than six elderly clients. §310.2.2 of the California Building Code addresses other Group R, Division 2 occupancies, while Exception #1 in Appendix Chapter A, Section 316A.1 addresses Group R, Division 6 facilities housing non-ambulatory clients above the first floor. (Note: §3.23 is being revised.)

Date Issued: 02-05-04

Interpretation 04-004

Topic: **Construction Limits for Group R, Division 2.1 Occupancies**

Code Section(s): §13131.5, California Health and Safety Code

Requested by: Kerwin Lee, Rolf Jensen and Associates, 2125 Oak Grove Rd #300 Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Can a residential care occupancy (Group R, Division 2.1) having six or fewer non-ambulatory residents/clients be housed on the third floor of a Type V-1 hour building? The first two floors of the building house more than six non-ambulatory residents/clients.

No. Health and Safety Code Section 13131.5(b) limits the housing of non-ambulatory persons in a Type V-1 hour building only to the first and second floor. Further, you will find that Table 5-B of the California Building Code (2001 ed) limits a Group R, Division 2.1 occupancy housed in a Type V-1 hour building to two stories as well. When housing non-ambulatory persons on the third, fourth or fifth floor, Section 13131.5(c)(3) of the California Health and Safety Code requires that the entire building be of Type II Fire Resistant construction. It is not the intent of the code to divide or separate the occupants in a Group R, Division 2.1 occupancy to circumvent minimum requirements.

Date Issued: 07-30-04

Interpretation 04-012

Topic: **Cooking Appliances** in R-2.1 and R-2.2 Occupancies

Code Section(s): §310.2.2, California Building Code (2001)

Requested by: Karen Vaudreuil, Fire Marshal, Carlsbad Fire Department, 1635 Faraday Ave., Carlsbad, CA. 92008

A business is requesting to convert the balance of their senior apartments to assisted living units. This is an existing Type V-1 hr building and will be limited to only ambulatory persons on the upper floors. Since there is no reference in Section 310.2.2 relating to Group R-2.1 and Group R-2.2 occupancy types, if the floors and walls of each unit are properly constructed of fire-rated materials.

Can cooking appliances be used in the dwelling units?

Yes. Cooking appliances may be allowed as long as all construction requirements in Section 310.2.2 are met.

Date Issued: 06-02-04

Interpretation 04-013

Topic: Requirements for Group **R Occupancies**

Code Section(s): § 310.10.2, California Building Code (2001)

Requested by: Dennis Lockard, Fire Marshal, PO Box 1768, Newport Beach, CA 92658-8915

Section 310.10.2 requires that Group R, Divisions 2.1.1, 2.2.1 and 2.3.1 occupancies be provided with at least one manual pull station to activate a distinctive fire alarm signal audible throughout the facility.

1. Is the manual pull station required to be listed by the State Fire Marshal?

Yes. A manual pull station is a fire alarm device. Per Section 13114(b) of the California Health and Safety Code, all fire alarm devices must be approved and listed by the State Fire Marshal.

2. Is the device providing the audible signal required to be listed by the State Fire Marshal?

If the device is designed or constructed to be a fire alarm device, then it must be approved and listed by the State Fire Marshal. If it is not a fire alarm device then it would not have to be listed by the State Fire Marshal but it would need to produce a distinctive sound audible throughout the facility.

Date Issued: January 6, 2006

Interpretation 05-025

Topic: **R-2 Facilities with multiple housing units**

Code Section(s): 2001 California Building Code, Section 310

Requested by: Mark McCormick, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal, Santa Rosa Fire Department, 955 Sonoma Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

1.) California Building Code – 2001 edition, Section 310 – Requirements for group R Occupancies, Division 2.1 states, “Residentially-based, licensed facilities accommodating more than six non-ambulatory clients. CBC 203 defines a “building” as “any structure as to which state agencies have regulatory power, used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy...” CBC Chapter 2 does not define “facility” however, CBC 1102A.6F defines “facility” as a building, structure, room, site, complex or any portion thereof, that is built, altered, improved to serve a particular purpose.

In the case of a campus style “facility” owned by a single entity which is requesting to be licensed for more than 6 non-ambulatory clients, and there are several separate buildings comprising no more than 5 independent residential living units (townhouse style) with staff working from another separate building, is it correct for the AHJ to classify this facility as an R-2.1 and/or is it the intent of the code to classify this “facility” as an R-2.1 since the “facility” desires to house and provide service/care for more than 6 non-ambulatory clients?

The word “facility” would constitute the entire campus. If the provider requested a single license for the entire facility, and the number of non-ambulatory clients exceeds six, the facility would be classified as an R-2.1. Each residential housing unit with six or less residents would be classified as an R-2.1.1. However, individual living units that are part of a larger facility and depend on each other for evacuation assistance would be required to have an approved manual fire alarm system throughout the facility.

2.) CBC 1007.6.3.1.1 requires a minimum of two exits from buildings classified as R-2 occupancies. In the case of a building constructed in a “townhouse” style where there are 5 individual residential units, (Type V-N) separated by a one hour

occupancy separation, each unit has one exit door (front door) where the sleeping room exits through the living/kitchenette room to the front door.

Is it the intent of the code that only one exit from each living space complies with the CBC 1007.6.3.2 for the arrangement of exits or would a second exit be required from the sleeping room to the outside or through another exit for non-ambulatory clients?

Each unit within the 5 unit building must have two exits as per 2001 California Building Code, Section 1007.6.3.1.1. Bedrooms in units housing non-ambulatory clients must comply with exiting arrangements as per Section 1007.6.3.2.2

Date Issued: 8/11/06

Interpretation 05-043

Topic: R-2.2 Occupancies

Code Section(s): Section 13131.5 California Health & Safety Code; Table 5b, California Building Code (2001 ed).

Requested by: Phillip Kudelka, Architect, PK Architecture, 22663 Collins Street Woodland Hills, Ca. 91367

Building analysis:

Existing 4 story, Type V-1 hour, sprinklered

R-2.1 on first and second floors

R-2.2 on the third floor

R-1 on the fourth floor

Based on the above building analysis, can a residential care occupancy (Group R-2.2) having six or less non-ambulatory clients be housed on the third floor?

Normally, the answer would be yes. However, in this case you have other issues to resolve. First, the R-1 could not be on the fourth floor. Table 5-B, limits R-1's of Type V 1-hour construction to three stories. You cannot use sprinklers for an additional story as the sprinklers are already required by the R-2.1. Also, in this particular case, the R-2.1 requirements prevail. California Health and Safety Code, Section 13131.5 would require that in buildings that are three to five stories and house R-2.1 occupancies, the entire building be of Type II fire resistive construction and fully sprinklered. Consequently, as your building is a Type V 1-hour construction, you cannot use this building as you intend.

Date Issued: 8-24-07

Interpretation 07-080

Topic: Group R Division 2.1.1 or 2.2.1

Code Section(s): 2001 California Building Code Section 415A

Requested by: Richard Friend, Friends Home Care, 31416 Chemin Chevalier, Temecula, CA 92591

The title of Section 415A of the 2001 Building Code reads, "RESIDENTIALLY-BASED, LICENSED FACILITIES IN A NON-SPRINKLERED GROUP R, DIVISION 2.1.1 AND 2.2.1 OCCUPANCY HOUSING A BEDRIDDEN CLIENT" (underscoring supplied). Section 415A.1.1 goes on to state that "The purpose of this chapter is to provide a minimum level of fire and life safety protection for a bedridden client, as defined in Section 203, housed in a non-sprinklered, Group R, Division 2.1.1 or 2.2.1 Occupancy" (underscoring supplied).

1. Does Section 415A or any provisions thereof apply to Group R, Division 2.1.1 Occupancies that have been retrofitted with NFPA type 13D automatic fire sprinkler systems?

No. This section of the California Building Code applies to NON-SPRINKLERED facilities that are housing a bedridden client; therefore the facility would not have to comply with any of the provisions of 415A.

2. If Section 415A does not apply to sprinklered R2.1.1 facilities, are the client bedrooms in those sprinklered R2.1.1 facilities considered approved for bedridden clients?

Yes. Keeping in mind that two exits are required and at least one of the exits must conform to the four exiting criteria set forth in §1007.6.3.2.2.

Date Issued: 1/22/08

Interpretation 07-144

Topic: Group R, Div 6.2 Location On Property

Code Section(s): 2001 CBC Section 317A and Table 5A

Requested by: Steve Bunting, Newport Beach Fire Department

Do the exterior wall and opening protection requirements in Table 5A for the Group R, Division 1 occupancy group apply to Group R, Division 6.2 occupancies?

Yes, when the exterior wall is located 3 or more feet from the property line.

Does Section 317A allow the exterior wall of a Group R, Division 6.2 which is located 3 feet or more from the property line to be non-rated and have openings?

2001 CBC Section 317A does not apply to exterior walls of a Group R 6.2 located 3 feet or more from the property line.

Date Issued: October 3, 2007

Interpretation 07-152

Topic: Bedridden Residents in Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE) Group R-2.1 Occupancies

Code Section(s): 2001 California Building Code Section 310

Requested by: State Fire Marshal Residential Care Facilities Advisory Committee

Health and Safety Code, Section 1569.72 (c) allows bedridden persons to be admitted to and remain in RCFE that maintain a fire clearance. Furthermore, it states that a fire clearance shall be issued to an RCFE, in which a bedridden person as determined by the Department of Social Services (DSS) resides if either of the following conditions are met:

1. The fire safety requirements are met.

2. Alternative methods of protection are approved.

Health and Safety Code, Section 13131.5 (b) prescribes the minimum building standards for a non-ambulatory occupancy in two story RCFEs:

Health and Safety Code, Section 13131.5 (b) All of the following building standards shall apply to any two-story building housing non-ambulatory persons on a second floor, which is operated as a residential care facility for the elderly and licensed to care for more than six persons:

(1) The entire building shall have installed a State Fire Marshal approved fully automatic fire extinguishing system, designed and installed in accordance with Section 2-3801 (d) of Chapter 2-38 Part of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations (Title 24, Part 2 2001 California Building Code).

(2) The entire building shall have installed a State Fire Marshal approved and listed automatic fire alarm system.

(3) The entire building shall be of at least Type V one-hour fire resistive construction, as described in Chapter 2-22 of Part 2 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations (Title 24 Part 2001 California Building Code).

(4) A building with individual floor areas over 6,000 square feet per floor shall have an approved smoke barrier dividing the floor approximately in half, without regard to whether direct exiting is available from each dwelling unit.

(5) The entire building shall have at least two sets of enclosed stairways.

RCFEs, as described in the Health and Safety Code, have been defined in the 2001 edition of the California Building Code (CBC), as R-2.1, R-2.1.1, R-2.2 and R-2.2.1 Occupancies. The requirements are codified in the 2001 CBC, Section 310 – Group R Occupancies. However, the requirements for the R-2.1 Occupancy Group (RCFE), specifically addresses non-ambulatory residents and is silent in regard to the pertinent building standards allowing bedridden residents in an RCFE, R-2.1 Occupancy, which leads to the following question:

• Can bedridden residents be housed in an R-2.1 Occupancy Groups (RCFEs)?

Yes. Provided the minimum standards for R-2.1 Occupancies are met, fire clearance shall be granted to all applicants seeking to house and/or serve non-ambulatory and/or bedridden residents in an RCFE. CBC Section 310.1 Group R Occupancies defined, Division 2.1 to include, among other things, Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly and Residential Care Facilities for the Chronically Ill.

Furthermore, CBC Section 310.2.2 allows bedridden residents in similar R occupancies (R2.3 and R2.3.1) to be housed above the first floor provided there is construction of not less than one hour fire resistive construction throughout.

The forthcoming 2007 California Building Code based on the 2006 edition of the International Building Code with amendments reconciles the requirements of the Health and Safety Code, as well as, the 2001 CBC. R-2.1 and R-2.3 Occupancies are combined under a single I-1 Occupancy.

Section 308.2 of the 2007 California Building Code, (Effective January 2008) as follows:

Group I-1. This occupancy shall include buildings, structures or parts thereof housing clients on a 24 hour basis, who because of age, mental disability or other reasons, live in a supervised residential environment that provides personal care services.

This occupancy may contain more than six non-ambulatory and/or bedridden clients. ...

This group shall include but not be limited to, the following:

Assisted living facilities such as: Residential Care Facilities, Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs), Congregate Living Health Facilities, Group homes, Residential Care Facilities for the Chronically Ill, and Congregate Living Health Facilities for the Terminally Ill.

Date Issued: 1/22/08

Interpretation 07-154

Topic: **Door requirements for a Group R 2.1.1 and 2.2.1**

Code Section(s): 415A.4

Requested by: Frank Burgett, Hazard Reduction, Riverside County Fire Dept., Fire Prevention Technician

Code Interpretation reference Door and Hardware requirements in Group R 2.1.1 and 2.2.1 Occupancy housing “A” Bedridden client.

In Section 415A.4 it refers to bedridden clients’ sleeping room shall be a self-closing, positive latching 1 3/8” solid wood door with a gasket.

Does a solid 1 3/8” solid wood door with decorative carving (i.e. paneled door) qualify. The thickness has now decreased in areas of the carving below 1 3/8”?

No. The code specifically requires a minimum of 1 3/8” solid wood core .

Does a twenty minute fire rated door with or without decorative carving (i.e. paneled door) installed by a professional or property owner with a gasket meet the intent of a 1 3/8” solid wood door?

Yes. A 20 minute rated door with a gasket would meet this requirement.

Date Issued: 1/22/08

Interpretation 07-158

Topic: Audible Fire Alarm Signals Throughout the Building

Code Section(s): CFC 1006.3.3.3.1

Requested by: David Burkhart, Code Consultants, Inc., 1804 Borman Circle Drive
Saint Louis, MO 63146

Does section 1006.3.3.3.1 of the 2001 California Fire Code (CFC) require that buildings have an audible fire alarm signal throughout the building?

Yes or in designated portions of the building when approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

Date Issued: May 9, 2008

Interpretation 08-014

Topic: **Does a sliding glass door meet the requirement for an exit**

Code Section(s): 2001 CBC 415A

Requested by: Rob Ball, Fire Marshal, Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District
10500 Civic Center Drive, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

The following is a formal request for a State Fire Marshal Code Interpretation regarding door requirements when an existing non-sprinklered, six or fewer non-ambulatory residential care facility (R-2.1.1) wishes to house bedridden client.

The pertinent code sections are: Section 415A of the 2001 California Building Code.

Section 415A.3 says that “a direct exit to the exterior of the residence shall be provided from the client sleeping room.” Section 415A.4 goes on to discuss the doors (plural) serving the bedridden client’s sleeping room. That section says,

“Doors to a bedridden client’s sleeping room shall be of a self-closing, positive latching 1-3/8 inch solid wood door. Doors shall be maintained self-closing or shall

be automatic closing by actuation of a smoke alarm in accordance with Section 713.”

Given that: 1) A direct exit to the exterior from the client’s sleeping room is required,

2) Doors (plural) serving the client’s sleeping room have to be self-closing, positive latching 1-3/8” solid wood doors, and 3) There is no distinction made in Section

415A.4 between interior and exterior doors, was it or is it the intent of the code to allow a sliding glass door to meet the “direct exit to the exterior” requirement so

long as the sliding glass door meets the criteria in Sections 415A.5 and 415A.6?

Yes.

Is the answer to this question the same for a new facility of this type that is subject to the provisions of Section 425.8.3.3 of the 2007 California Building Code?

Yes, except, current code requires the exterior door to be operable from both the inside and the outside by the facility staff.

Note: If additional hardware that is used on a sliding glass door to allow it to be operable from the inside and outside by staff impedes the 32” clear width than the sliding glass door cannot be used.

Date Issued: May 9, 2008

Interpretation 08-021

Topic: **New classification of an R6.1.1**

Code Section(s): 2007 California Building Code 310 and 907.2.10.3

Requested by: Gregory Lake, Supervising Inspector, Code Development and Enforcement,
Sacramento Metro Fire

1. What is the new classification of an R-6.1.1? CBC 310, R-3.1 Occupancies are for facilities with 6 or fewer clients, but the section does not mention Social Rehab as one of the possible uses. (CBC 310 indicates that R-4 Occupancies are for more than

6 clients, but specifically indicates Social Rehab facilities such as: halfway houses as a possible use.)

Under the 2007 CBC an R-6.11 would be classified as an R-3.1.

Date Issued: May 9, 2008

Interpretation 08-022

Topic: Do existing R-4's have to meet current code because of a required biannual license renewal

Code Section(s): 2007 CBC Section 111.1

Requested by: C. Edward Dilkes, Attorney at Law, 2443 Park Oak Drive, Hollywood, CA 90068

Does Section 111.5.1 of the 2007 California Building Code prohibit enforcement of newly created provisions of the Building Code and Fire Code in situations where the structure in question is: (1) either an I-1 or R occupancy Group, (2) the structure was occupied and used as an I-1 or R occupancy prior to the effective date of the 2007 amendments to the Code, (3) no change in occupancy will occur, and (4) there have been no structural alterations?

Yes, existing Group I-1 and R occupancies shall be inspected under the code in effect at time of licensing.

Reference: CBC Section 111.5.1 Existing Group I-1 or Group R Occupancies. Licensed 24-hour care in a Group I-1 or Group R occupancy in existence and originally classified under previously adopted state codes shall be re-inspected under the appropriate previous code, provided there is no change in the use or character which would place the facility in a different occupancy group.

Date Issued: May 13, 2008

Interpretation 08-025

Topic: Wireless inter-connected smoke alarms for Group R occupancies

Code Section(s): 2007 California Building Code 907.2.10.4

Requested by: Gregory Lake, Supervising Inspector, Code Development and Enforcement, Sacramento Metro Fire

1. Can SFM-listed smoke alarms that are AC hardwired but have radio transmitted interconnection be used to satisfy CBC 907.2.10.3?

Yes. This can be applied to an R3.1

2. Does 907.2.10.4 prohibit their use since testing the interconnecting wires is part of the acceptance test?

No

Date Issued: 2/2/2009

Interpretation 08-047

Topic: R3.1 Clarifications of Sprinklers and Exiting

Code Section(s): 2007 California Building Code Section 425

Requested by: Gregory Lake, Supervising Inspector, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, 3012 Gold Canal Dr., Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

R-3.1 Occupancies

1. Where residential fire sprinklers have been installed throughout a single family dwelling per NFPA 13D:

a. CBC 425.3.4 - Can residential fire sprinklers be used for substitution of 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction required in this section?

No. Per 2007 CBC Chapter 6 Table 601 Footnote e.

b. CBC 425.8.2.1 – Minimum of 2 exits – Can residential fire sprinklers be used to mitigate this section where a second means of egress leads to an enclosed back yard with no access to the public way or a safe area?

No. The 2007 CBC does not have provisions for this allowance.

c. CBC 425.8.3.2 – Do fire sprinklers mitigate the need for non-ambulatory exiting in this section?

No. The 2007 CBC does not have provisions for this allowance.

d. CBC 425.8.3.2 and CBC 903.2.7 – Can fire sprinklers be used to mitigate the required 2nd exit from second floors housing non-ambulatory clients?

No. The 2007 CBC requires fire sprinklers on the second floor; therefore, there are no provisions for this allowance.

e. CBC 425.8.3.3 – Do fire sprinklers mitigate the need for bedridden exiting for all bedrooms with “a” bedridden client?

2007 CBC 425.8.3.3 does not apply where there is more than one bedridden client.

2. CBC 425.8.3.2 - Are bathroom doors and closet doors in the egress hallways of R-3.1 occupancies required to be solid core doors as required for the door at the mouth of the hallway because these areas are “common area” separation doors?

No. 2007 CBC Section 425.8.3.2 addresses the hallway door separating the bedrooms from the common areas.

Date Issued: 9/18/08

Interpretation 08-050

Topic: **Residential Care Facility I-1**

Code Section(s): 2007 California Building Code Section 308.2

Requested by: SFM Residential Care Advisory Committee

For I-1 occupancies section 308.2 states “this occupancy may contain more than six non-ambulatory and/or bedridden clients”.

Was it the intent of the code due to the use of the word MAY to allow the AHJ the ability to deny an 850 fire clearance request for bedridden?

No. The intent of this section was not directed at the fire service. It was the intent of the code to allow the licensee the option of retaining non-ambulatory and/or bedridden in the facility as long as all the required fire & life safety requirements were met. If the code were to use the term “shall” in the sentence each facility would be required to retain bedridden clients in their facility.

Date Issued: 10/1/08

Interpretation 08-060

Topic: **Existing R-2.1.1 or R-2.2.1 Occupancies (6 or less)**

Code Section(s): 2007 California Building Code, Section 111.5.1

Requested by: State Fire Marshal Residential Care Advisory Committee

Is a Residential Care Facility licensed for 6 or fewer clients prior to January 1, 2008 required to meet the 2007 California Building Code if the client capacity is changed to increase the number of non-ambulatory or bedridden beds?

Yes. The following statements apply to your question and clarify the intent of Section 111.5.1, 2007 CBC as it relates to residential care facilities housing six or less clients.

1. All existing facilities can remain under the 2001 CBC as long as there are no changes to their license relative to non-ambulatory or bedridden.

2. All existing facilities adding non-ambulatory and/or bedridden shall meet the requirements of the 2007 California Building Code.

Note: Effective as to date of issuance above

Date Issued 12/19/08

Interpretation 08-073

Topic: RCFE Exiting Requirements

Code Section(s): 2007 California Building Code Section 425.8.3.3

Requested by: Matt Sather, Owner, Shield Fire Protection, 27052 Lost Colt Dr.
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

When a facility with 6 non-ambulatory clients adds a residential fire sprinkler system to meet the requirements for 6 bedridden, are the CBC 2007 Section 425.8.3.3 requirements for a single bedridden client also required to be installed in each of the six bedridden rooms?

No. However, keep in mind that two exits are required and at least one of the exits must conform to the four exiting criteria set forth in 2007 California Building Code Section 425.8.3.2.

INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN



September 12, 1994

OPS 94-1

FIRE CLEARANCE REQUESTS FOR ALCOHOLISM OR DRUG ABUSE RECOVERY TREATMENT FACILITIES (R-6'S)

There are two recent changes in State law which affect your procedures in processing a fire clearance, (Standard Form 850, Fire Safety Inspection Request) from the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) for licensed **Alcoholism or Drug Abuse Recovery Treatment Facilities**. The first involves how you will be receiving inspection requests. The second, on how to fill out the fire clearance form.

In the past, when a prospective licensee submitted a licensing application, ADP in turn requested a fire clearance from you, the local fire authority. An inspection was then conducted relative to the number and ambulatory status of the clients, based upon the information the provider submitted on their application. However, Assembly Bill 2160 (Chapter 741, Statutes of 1993) changed Section 11834.03 of the Health and Safety Code. This section deals with the documentation to be submitted by the prospective licensee to ADP.

Now, a person or entity applying for licensure must submit to ADP a Standard Form 850 approved by the local fire authority with their application. In other words, it is up to the provider to obtain an approved fire clearance before submitting the licensing package to ADP. You will now be contacted directly by the provider to obtain an approved fire clearance.

The Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs is also requesting that local fire inspectors indicate the maximum allowable capacity, **including dependent children**, in the "Total Capacity" block on the Standard Form 850. Approving the maximum acceptable occupancy of the facility will help assure the safety of children residing in ADP licensed facilities. Children residing in ADP facilities are under the supervision of their parent (s) and are not receiving recovery services as defined in ADP's licensing regulations.

When filling out the Fire Safety Inspection Request, you must specify on the form the number of beds for ambulatory residents and the number of beds for nonambulatory residents. You must also include any restrictions regarding nonambulatory clearances, such as limitation to specific bedrooms or the use of only

certain floors. As a reminder, a local jurisdiction may not enforce any fire and panic safety regulation in an ADP facility unless the regulation has been adopted by the State Fire Marshal.

If you have any questions regarding the processing of the Fire Safety Inspection Request form for ADP facilities, please contact:

Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs
Licensing and Certification Branch
1700 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 322-2911

If you have any questions regarding application of any State Fire Marshal regulations, please contact the Regional Office serving your area:

Northern Region
7171 Bowling Dr.
Sacramento 95823
(916) 262-1963

Coastal Region
2300 Merced Street
San Leandro 94577
(510) 357-8173

Southern Region
1501 W. Cameron Ave.
West Covina 91790
(818) 960-6441

**California State Fire Marshal
Information Bulletin April July 25, 2001**

**BEDRIDDEN CLIENTS IN
RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES**

Current SFM regulations do not address the placement of bedridden clients in a residential setting. However, on January 1, 2001, a new California statute (SB 1896-Ortiz) became effective which amended existing sections of the California Health and Safety Code to allow the placement of bedridden persons in residential care facilities licensed by the California Department of Social Services. As provided by this new law, **this means that bedridden clients can now be placed in residential care facilities.**

The scope of the statute provides for the following:

1. Creation of a new definition for "bedridden".
2. Provides the Department of Social Services with the authority to determine the bedridden status of persons (in consultation with the Director of Developmental Services).
3. Allows bedridden persons in residential care facilities if

- (A) The facility receives a fire clearance by meeting applicable requirements; or,
- (B) Alternative methods of protection are approved by the AHJ.

4. Requires that the State Fire Marshal and the Department of Social Services adopt regulations to meet the mandate of the statute.
5. Requires that the State Fire Marshal identify procedures for requesting the approval of alternate means of providing equivalent levels of fire and life safety protection.
6. Requires that the State Fire Marshal provide a written response to a code interpretation of the new regulations within 45 days of request.

SFM is currently drafting the necessary regulations. In the interim, SFM recommends that fire officials work with any facility in their jurisdiction to achieve an acceptable alternate means of protection until the new regulations are in place.

Questions regarding this issue may be addressed to SFM Code Development & Analysis Division by telephoning Gini Krippner at (916) 327-7672

California State Fire Marshal

Information Bulletin October 10, 2001
BEDRIDDEN CLIENTS IN
RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES

Current SFM regulations do not address the placement of bedridden clients in a residential setting. However, on January 1, 2001, a new California statute (SB 1896-Ortiz) became effective which amended existing sections of the California Health and Safety Code to allow the placement of bedridden persons in residential care facilities licensed by the California Department of Social Services. As provided by this new law, **this means that bedridden clients can now be placed in residential care facilities.**

The scope of the statute provides for the following:

1. Creation of a new definition for "bedridden".
2. Provides the Department of Social Services with the authority to determine the bedridden status of persons (in consultation with the Director of Developmental Services).
3. Allows bedridden persons in residential care facilities if
 - (A) The facility receives a fire clearance by meeting applicable requirements;or,
 - (B) Alternative methods of protection are approved by the AHJ.
4. Requires that the State Fire Marshal and the Department of Social Services adopt regulations to meet the mandate of the statute.
5. Requires that the State Fire Marshal identify procedures for requesting the approval of alternate means of providing equivalent levels of fire and life safety protection.
6. Requires that the State Fire Marshal provide a written response to a code interpretation of the new regulations within 45 days of request.

SFM is currently drafting the necessary regulations. In the interim, SFM recommends that fire officials work with any facility in their jurisdiction to achieve an acceptable alternate means of protection until the new regulations are in place.

Questions regarding this issue may be addressed to SFM Code Development & Analysis Division by telephoning Gini Krippner at (916) 327-7672

California State Fire Marshal
Information Bulletin April 10, 2007

BEDRIDDEN PERSONS IN RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES FOR THE ELDERLY (RCFE'S) HOUSING 7 or MORE NON-AMBULATORY CLIENTS

The Office of the State Fire Marshal has received numerous questions concerning the admission and retention of "bedridden" persons in a 7 or more Licensed Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE). The purpose of this "Information Bulletin" is to clarify this issue and prevent the unnecessary relocation of bedridden persons.

Health and Safety Code Section 1569.72(a) indicates that **no bedridden persons** as determined by the Department of Social Services (other than for a temporary illness or one who is recovering from surgery) shall be admitted or retained in a residential care facility for the elderly (RCFE).

However, Section 1569.72(c), a newer statute resulting from SB 1896, allows bedridden persons to be admitted to and remain in residential care facilities for the elderly that secure and maintain a fire clearance. It states that a fire clearance shall be issued to a facility in which a bedridden person as determined by the Department of Social Services (DSS) resides if **either** of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The fire safety requirements are met.
- (2) Alternative methods of protection are approved.

(1) The fire safety requirements are met. If Item 1 is used to obtain the fire clearance, all other fire safety requirements for the specific R-2.1 occupancy (7 or more non-ambulatory) for the elderly as prescribed in the current 2001 edition of the California Building Code shall apply. It should be noted that the current code prohibits "bedridden" client sleeping rooms other than those used for "temporary bedridden" be located above or below the first floor.

(2) Alternative methods of protection are approved. If Item 2 is used to obtain the fire clearance for bedridden residents above the first floor, the facility can request the enforcing agency to grant approval for an alternate material, design or method of construction that shall be approved where the enforcing agency finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and complies with the intent of the provisions of the code. This request is subject to final approval by the enforcing agency on a case by case basis. Example: utilization of the recently adopted 2007 California Building Code which does not prohibit bedridden persons from being placed and/or retained on or above the first floor or any other alternate means of protection that is acceptable to the enforcing agencies that provides for an equal or better degree of protection. The recently adopted code can be found at <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/pdf/codeadoption/part2expresstermsfinal.pdf> .

For questions and information regarding this Information Bulletin, please contact Chief Ernie Paez at (626) 305-1908 or ernie.paez@fire.ca.gov



California State Fire Marshal Information Bulletin

Exterior Ramps Group R-3.1

Issued: March 10, 2009

This Information Bulletin is being issued to clarify a State Fire Marshal regulation contained in California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2 California Building Code (CBC). This Information Bulletin specifically addresses the requirements contained in CBC Section 425.8.5 *Changes in Level* relating to ramps in Group R-3.1 occupancies (Residential Care Facilities for 6 or fewer clients) and enforcement responsibilities of the local fire official.

Over the past several years the issue of mandating ramps on the exterior of Group R-3.1 occupancies has been a concern for fire and building code officials. The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has posted several code interpretations on this issue (00-019 & 02-025) and most recently the question arose regarding the 2007 California Building Code. During the rulemaking process to create the 2007 California Building Code, the OSFM had not revised the intent for changes in level in Group R-3.1 occupancies (Section 425.8.5), and further does not require changes in level for the exterior to be made by means of a ramp.

Re-searching back to previous editions of the CBC, the language has remained the same, and the intent remains the same; in that, it is not the responsibility of the local fire official to enforce exterior exit ramps as these code sections apply to the interior changes of level in the facility only. Enforcement of other provisions of the CBC relating to accessibility that may require exterior ramps are typically enforced by the local building official. Questions or comments regarding the application of Chapter 11A accessibility provisions should be referred to the California Department of Housing and Community Development and/or your local Building Official.

For more information please visit our website <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>

FIRE PRE-INSPECTION/CONSULTATION REQUEST

NOTE: Complete and submit this form and payment of fee, to the Fire Authority responsible for inspecting your facility. **DO NOT** send to Community Care Licensing.

I hereby request the Fire Authority having jurisdiction to survey my property for compliance with the fire and life safety provisions required for licensing as a:

- Community Care Facility (Health & Safety Code Section 1502)
- Residential Care Facility for Elderly (Health & Safety Code Section 1569.2)
- Child Care Facility (Health & Safety Code Section 1596.750)

with a capacity of:

- 25 or less clients (\$50.00 fee)
- 26 or more clients (\$100.00 fee)

Number of Non-ambulatory _____

FACILITY NAME	
ADDRESS	
CITY	ZIP
OWNER/CONTACT	TELEPHONE NUMBER
SIGNED	DATE

For Fire Authority Use Only

Request/Fee Received	/ /	By	
Fee To Accounting	/ /	By	
Inspection Date	/ /	By	
850 Received	/ /		
Cleared	/ /	By	

FILE #	OCCUPANCY GROUP
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Additional Pre-Inspection Information for the Fire Inspector:

In order to provide the most complete list of requirements, please provide the following information:

Facility Name: _____ ***Assessors Parcel Number:*** _____

<i>Type of Facility:</i>	<i>Fire Sprinklers</i>	<i>Residents will be sleeping on which floors in building?</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Residential Building	___ Yes ___ No	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Building	___ Yes ___ No	_____

Number of Stories in Building: _____

Age Group:

18-64 years Elderly

<i>Number of Residents:</i>	<i>Ambulatory</i>	<i>Non-Ambulatory</i>	<i>Bedridden</i>
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1 - 6 _____ _____ _____

7 or More _____ _____ _____

Applicant Information

Name: _____ Day Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

By: (Print) _____ Signed: _____

E-Mail Address _____

Owner Licensee Agent for Owner Contractor

FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION REQUEST

See instructions on reverse.

STD. 850 (REV. 10-94)

AGENCY CONTACT'S NAME Jane Doe	TELEPHONE NUMBER (916) 555-1212	REQUEST DATE 04/07/09	PROGRAM
EVALUATOR'S NAME Letsplan Ahead, LPA	REQUESTING AGENCY FACILITY NUMBER 1230003567		REQUEST CODE 3
LICENSING AGENCY NAME AND ADDRESS Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing 2525 Natomas Park Drive, Ste 270 Sacramento, CA 95833-2931			CODES 1. ORIGINAL A. FIRE CLEARANCE 2. RENEWAL B. LIFE SAFETY 3. CAPACITY CHANGE 4. OWNERSHIP CHANGE 5. ADDRESS CHANGE 6. NAME CHANGE 7. OTHER

AMBULATORY		NONAMBULATORY		BEDRIDDEN		TOTAL CAPACITY
CAPACITY	PREVIOUS CAPACITY	CAPACITY	PREVIOUS CAPACITY	CAPACITY	PREVIOUS CAPACITY	
1	2	4	4	1	0	6

FACILITY NAME My Home	LICENSE CATEGORY RCFE
STREET ADDRESS (Actual Location) 1234 Anystreet Road	NUMBER OF BUILDINGS 1
CITY Yourtown, CA 95826	RESTRAINT NONE
FACILITY CONTACT PERSON'S NAME Ima Niceperson (530) 555-1212	HOURS 24/7
SPECIAL CONDITIONS	

TO BE COMPLETED BY INSPECTING AUTHORITY

FIRE AUTHORITY NAME AND ADDRESS THEBEST FIRE DISTRICT 1233 FIREHOUSE DRIVE YOURTOWN, CA 95628				CLEARANCE/DENIAL CODE 1A
INSPECTOR'S NAME (Typed or Printed) <i>Maria Fuego</i>				CODES 1. FIRE CLEARANCE GRANTED 2. FIRE CLEARANCE DENIED A. EXITS B. CONSTRUCTION C. FIRE ALARM D. SPRINKLERS E. HOUSEKEEPING F. SPECIAL HAZARD G. OTHER
INSPECTOR'S TELEPHONE NUMBER (916) 987-6543	CFIRS NUMBER 34000	OCCUPANCY CLASS R-3.1		
INSPECTION DATE 04/08/09	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE (Typed or Printed) #1234 <i>Maria Fuego</i>			

EXPLAIN DENIAL OR LIST SPECIAL CONDITIONS
 BEDRIDDEN APPROVAL FOR BEDROOM 5 ONLY, NON-AMBULATORY APPROVAL FOR BEDROOMS 1,2, AND 5 ONLY,
 AMBULATORY APPROVED FOR ALL BEDROOMS

Residential Care Facilities (Group R-2.1) Inspection Checklist (2010 Codes)

(Group 1-1 = More than 6 Non-Ambulatory or bedridden. Regardless of licensing agency)

		OK	CN	NA
1.	Minimum Construction: Type V-1 Hour construction. Max of 10,500 sq. ft.—3 stories. Nonambulatory clients to be limited to the first two stories. CBC Section 425.4.1 & Table 503.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Smoke Barriers: a. Required where individual floor area exceeds 6,000 sq. ft. Area of a single smoke compartment shall not exceed 22,500 sq. ft. and travel distance to an exit or smoke barrier wall shall not exceed 200 feet. CBC, Sec. 425.5.1 <i>Exception: One story facilities housing more than six non-ambulatory elderly where the buildings have direct exits from each dwelling unit. H & S code, Section 13131.5.(a)(#4)</i> b. Smoke barrier framing to be covered with noncombustible material with thermal barrier index of not less than 15. CBC 425.5.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Automatic Fire Sprinkler Protection: Fire Sprinkler System in accordance with NFPA 13. CBC Sec. 903.2.8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Smoke Alarms: Required in each sleeping area and in the corridor or area giving access to each separate sleeping area. Exception: Smoke alarms not required in sleeping rooms when the sleeping rooms are protected by smoke detectors which are part of an automatic smoke detection system. CBC Sec. 425.7.3 and 907.2.11.2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Carbon Monoxide Alarms: Required in R-2.1's which have dwelling units or sleeping units which have fuel-burning appliances installed within the unit. Carbon monoxide alarms shall be connected to the building wiring and have battery back-up. Where there is more than one alarm within the unit, all alarms shall be interconnected so that when one alarm is activated all alarms within the unit shall sound. CBC Sec. 420.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Fire Alarm: a. A complete automatic and manual fire alarm system shall be provided in accordance with CBC Section 907.2.9.3. This requirement is in addition to the smoke alarms required by CBC Section 425.7.3 Exception: Buildings housing non-ambulatory clients only on the first floor and protected throughout by all of the following: 1. An approved supervised automatic fire sprinkler system installed in accordance with NFPA #13. Activation of sprinkler system shall sound the building fire alarm system. 2. A manual fire alarm system. 3. Smoke alarms as required by CBC Sec. 907.2.11. b. Strobes shall be provided in public areas, common use areas, sleeping rooms and protective care facilities housing hearing impaired clients. CBC Section 907.5.2.3, 907.5.2.3.1 & 907.5.2.3.3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Exits: Two Exits required. CBC Sec. 425.8.2.1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	Corridor Construction:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Hallways/corridors serving 7 or more shall be 1-hour fire resistive with door openings protected by 20-minute fire rated assemblies. Doors to be maintained self-closing or automatic-closing by activation of a smoke detector. Glazed openings to be labeled ¾ hour fire-rated assemblies. Table 1018.1. Exception: <i>In sprinklered buildings, rated corridor doors to client rooms do not require self-closers. (See CBC Sec. 425.8.4.2)</i>			
9.	Corridor Width: 60 inches on floors housing non-ambulatory clients and 44 inches on floors housing only ambulatory clients. CBC Sec. 425.8.4.2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.	Intervening Rooms: Corridors shall not be interrupted by intervening rooms. CBC Sec. 1018.6. Exception 1: <i>Foyers, lobbies and reception rooms shall not be considered intervening rooms.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.	Exit Enclosure: Two enclosed exit stairways remotely located shall be required if 7 or more non-ambulatory clients are located above the first floor. CBC Sec. 425.8.6.1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.	Delayed Egress: Allowed if conforming to requirements of CBC Sec. 1008.1.9.7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13.	Bedridden Clients: Allowed for facilities licensed after Jan. 1, 2008. See definition in CBC Section 310.1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14.	Exit Signs: Required as per CBC Section 1011.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15.	Floor Level Exit Signs: Required as per CBC Section 1011.6. Exception: <i>Where exit path marking is provided</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.	Exit Path Marking: Required as per CBC Section 1011.7 Exception: <i>Where floor level exit signs are provided</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17.	Tactile Exit Signs: Required as per CBC Section 1011.3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18.	Emergency Lighting: Required as per CBC Section 1006.3. Exception: Client sleeping rooms.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19.	Fire Extinguishers: Required as per CFC Sections 906.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20.	Exit ramps: Required as per CBC Section 1003.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Residential Care Facilities (Group R-4) Inspection Checklist (2010 Codes)

(Group R-4 = More than 6 Ambulatory, Regardless of licensing agency)

May have up to 6 non-amb or bedridden

	OK	CN	NA
<p>1. Minimum Construction: Type V-N Maximum of 7000 sq. ft.—3 stories. Higher if different construction. Table 503. <i>Exception 1: Where non-ambulatory clients are housed above the first floor, or there is more than 3000 Sq. Ft. of area above the first floor or housing more than 16 clients at this level, the construction shall be 1-hour fire resistive throughout. CBC Sec. 425.3.5.</i> <i>Exception 2: Facilities housing non-ambulatory elderly clients shall be at least Type V, 1-hour throughout. CBC, Section 425.3.6</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>2. Smoke Barriers: a. Required where individual floor area exceeds 6000 sq. ft. Area of a single smoke compartment shall not exceed 22,500 sq. ft. and travel distance to an exit or smoke barrier wall shall not exceed 200 feet. CBC, Sec. 425.5.1 b. Smoke barrier framing to be covered with noncombustible material with thermal barrier index of not less than 15. CBC 425.5.2</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>3. Automatic Fire Sprinkler Protection: Fire Sprinkler System in accordance with NFPA 13. CBC Sec. 903.2.7. <i>Exception 1: Protective Social Care facilities housing ambulatory persons ages 18-64 years.</i> <i>Exception 2: Occupancies housing ambulatory children only none of whom are mentally ill or mentally retarded, and the building does not exceed 2 stories in height and is equipped with a complete smoke detection system.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>4. Smoke Alarms: Required in each sleeping area and in the corridor or area giving access to each separate sleeping area. CBC Sec. 425.7.3 & 907.2.10.1.2</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>5. Fire Alarms: a. An approved manual and automatic fire alarm system. CBC Sec. 907.2.8.4. <i>Exception 1: Protective social care facilities housing persons none of whom are physically or mentally handicapped or non-ambulatory and provided with manual fire alarm system.</i> <i>Exception 2: Protective social care facilities provided with a sprinkler system and a manual fire alarm box that will actuate a fire alarm signal audible throughout the facility.</i> b. Strobes shall be provided in public areas, common use areas, sleeping rooms and protective social care facilities housing hearing impaired clients. CBC Section 907.9.1.1, 907.9.1.5.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>6. Exits: Two Exits required. CBC Sec. 425.8.2.1</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>7. Corridor Construction: Hallways/corridors serving 11 or more shall be 1-hour fire resistive with door openings protected by 20-minute fire rated assemblies. Doors to be maintained self-closing or automatic-closing by activation of a smoke detector. Glazed openings to be labeled ¾ hour fire-rated assemblies. CBC Sec. 425.8.4.1 & Table 1017.1.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>8. Corridor Width: 44 inches on floors housing only ambulatory clients. CBC Sec. 425.8.4.2. <i>Exception 1: Corridors serving 10 or less may be 36 inches in width.</i> <i>Exception 2: Corridors serving ambulatory persons only and having an</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	occupant load of 49 or less may be 36 inches in width.			
9.	Intervening Rooms: Corridors shall not be interrupted by intervening rooms. CBC Sec. 1017.5 <i>Exception 1: Foyers, lobbies and reception rooms shall not be considered intervening rooms.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.	Exit Enclosure: Two enclosed exit stairways remotely located shall be required if 7 or more non-ambulatory clients are located above the first floor. CBC Sec. 425.8.6.1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.	Delayed Egress: Allowed if conforming to the requirements of CBC Sec. 1008.1.8.6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.	Bedridden Clients: Allowed for facilities licensed after Jan. 1, 2008. May have up to six non-amb or 6 bedridden clients. See CBC Section 301.1 for definition of R-4 occupancies.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13.	Exit Signs: Required as per CBC Section 1011.1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14.	Floor Level Exit Signs: Required as per CBC Section 1011.6. <i>Exception: Where exit path marking is provided</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15.	Exit Path Marking: Required as per CBC Section 1011.7 <i>Exception: Where floor level exit signs are provided</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.	Tactile Exit Signs: Required as per CBC Section 1011.3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17.	Emergency Lighting: Required as per CBC Section 1006.3. Exception: Client sleeping rooms.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18.	Fire Extinguishers: Required as per CFC Sections 906.1 & 906.3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19.	Exit ramps: Required as per CBC Section 1003.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Residential Care Facilities (Group R-3.1) Inspection Checklist (2010 Codes)

(Group R-3.1 = Six or less clients, regardless of ambulatory status, or licensing agency)

	OK	CN	NA
1. Minimum Construction: Non-rated up to 3 stories. CBC Table 503. (Must be Type V 1-hour in facilities housing clients above the first floor, more than 2 stories in height or having more than 3,000 sq. feet floor area above the first floor). CBC Section 425.3.2. In facilities housing a bedridden client, the client sleeping room shall not be located above or below the first floor. 425.3.2. <i>Exception: Clients who are temporarily bedridden for up to 14 days as per H&S Code. 1566.45</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Smoke Barriers: Not required.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Automatic Sprinklers: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Not required unless housing bedridden clients or housing non-ambulatory clients above the first floor or housing clients above the second floor. CBC 903.2.8. b. Not required if housing only one bedridden client and complying with Section 425.8.3.3. CBC. c. An NFPA 13D system is required in new buildings where building permits and construction took place after January 1, 2011. CRC R313.3. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Smoke Alarms: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Required in all habitable areas of the facility including stairwells, except kitchens. CBC Section 907.2.11.2. b. In all facilities housing any bedridden clients, smoke alarms shall receive their Primary power from the building wiring and shall be equipped with battery backup. Alarms shall be interconnected so that they all sound upon actuation of a single smoke alarm. They are not required to be interconnected to a control panel. CBC Section 907.2.11.2.2. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Carbon Monoxide Alarms: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Required in all new dwellings built after January 1, 2011. CBC 420.4.1. Might be required by building or fire officials for existing dwellings after July 1, 2011. H&S Code 17926.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Fire Alarm: Not required.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Strobes: Required in protective care facilities that house any deaf patient. Strobes shall activate upon initiation of any smoke alarm. CBC Section 907.5.2.3.5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Exits: Minimum of two exits are required. CBC Section 425.8.2.1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Corridor Construction: Non-rated. CBC 1018.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Corridor Width: Shall be 36 inches on floors housing clients. CBC Section 425.8.4.2 and 1018.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Intervening Rooms: Means of egress shall not pass through more than one intervening room. A means of egress shall not pass through kitchens, storerooms, closets, garages or spaces used for similar purposes. CBC Section 425.8.3.4. <i>Exception: Kitchens that do not form separate rooms by construction.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Exit Access: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sleeping rooms used for non-ambulatory clients shall have access to one of the following exit arrangements: (Given in order of preference) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct exit from the sleeping rooms to the exterior. The exit shall have a door at least 3 feet in width and not less than 6 feet 8 inches in height. Door shall be capable of opening at least 90 degrees and shall provide at least 32 inches of clear width. 2. From sleeping room through an adjoining sleeping room with direct exit. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	<p>3. From sleeping room through the hallway serving the sleeping and which has an exit directly to the outside. The hallway shall be separated from the rest of the house by a wall and a 1-3/8" self-closing, solid wood door. The door can be automatic closing by actuation of a smoke detector installed in accordance with Section 715.4.8.</p> <p>4. From sleeping room through the hallway into another sleeping room that has an exit directly to the outside. The hallway shall be separated from the rest of the house by a wall and a 1-3/8" self-closing, solid wood door. The door can be automatic closing by actuation of a smoke detector. CBC Section 425.8.3.2.</p> <p>b. Sleeping rooms used for occupancies housing only one bedridden client shall meet all of the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sleeping room for the bedridden client shall exit directly to the exterior of the building. 2. Interior doors to sleeping room shall be a self-closing, positive latching 1-3/8" solid wood Door provided with a gasket to be smoke-tight. The door can be automatic closing by actuation of a smoke alarm. 3. Doors from sleeping rooms leading to an interior corridor or interior areas shall not have a night-latch, dead-bolt, security chain, or any similar locking devices. 4. The exterior sleeping room door shall be operable from both the interior and exterior of the residence. 5. Exterior sleeping room doors shall be at least 3 foot wide and 6 feet 8 inches high with a clear width of 32" and capable of opening at least 90 degrees. CBC Section 425.8.3.3. <p>Note: A sliding glass door can be used as the exterior exit door if it is operable from inside and outside and clear width of exit way is at least 32 inches. If facility wants to house more than one bedridden, they have to provide sprinklers and only comply with exiting requirements for non-ambulatory.</p>			
12.	<p>Floor Separation:</p> <p>a. Floor separations shall be provided with non-rated smoke partition to prevent smoke travel between floors. Such partitions shall have construction equal to ½ " gypsum board on one side of wall framing. CBC Section 425.8.7</p> <p><i>Exceptions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Occupancies with at least one exterior exit from floor occupied by patients. 2. Occupancies provided with automatic fire sprinkler systems. <p>b. Door openings in floor separations shall be protected by 1-3/8 inch solid wood core doors which shall be positive latching, smoke gasketed and self-closing or automatic closing by activation of a smoke detector. CBC Section 425.8.7.1.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13.	<p>Delayed Egress: Allowed if facility meets all requirements of CBC Section 1008.1.9.7.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14.	<p>Exit Signs: Not required. CBC Section 1011.1, Exception #3</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15.	<p>Tactile Exit Signs: Not Required.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.	<p>Emergency Lighting: Not required. CBC Section 1006.1, Exception #3</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17.	<p>Fire Extinguishers: Required. CBC Section 906.1, Item #1</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18.	<p>Exit ramps: Required in facilities housing non-ambulatory clients when changes in level exceed ½ inches. CBC Section 425.8.5.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**2010 CBC & CFC Residential Care Facility Requirements
(24 hour care only)
June 1, 2011**

Occupancy	Construction	Smoke Barrier	Sprinkler System	Smoke Alarms	Fire Alarm System	# of Exits	Rated Corridors	Delayed Egress	Bed-ridden	Exit Signs	Tactile Exit Signs	Emergency Lights	Fire Exting
R-2.1 7+ non-Amb of bed-ridden	Rated CBC-425.4.1 & Table 503	Yes If > than 6,000 sq. ft. CBC 425.5.1 425.5.2	Yes CBC 903.2.8	Yes CBC 425.7.3 420.4.1 For Carbon Monoxide alarms	Manual & Auto. System CBC 907.2.6.1.1 See Exc.	Two CBC 425.8.2.1	Yes CBC 425.8.4.1 Table 1017.1 60" for non-Amb and 44" for Amb CBC 425.8.4.2	Yes Must meet all req. of CBC 1008.1.9.7	Yes CBC 310.1	Yes 1011.1 Floor level-CBC 1011.6 Exit path Marking CBC 1011.7	Yes CBC 1011.3	Yes CBC 1006.3 See exc.	Yes CFC 906.1
R-4 7+ amb (May have 6 non-Amb Or 6 bedridden)	Non-rated up to 7,000 sq. feet CBC Table 503 See language in CBC 425.3.3 and 425.3.4	Yes If > than 6,000 sq. ft. CBC 425.5.1 425.5.2	Yes CBC 903.2.8 Except.	Yes CBC 425.7.3 420.4.1 For Carbon Monoxide alarms	Manual & Auto. System CBC 907.2.10.1 & 907.2.10.2 See except.	Two CBC 425.8.2.1	Yes If 11+ Occupants CBC Table 1018.1	Yes Must meet all req. of CBC 1008.1.9.7	Yes Up to 6 Allowed. CBC 310.1	Yes 1011.1	Yes CBC 1011.3	Yes CBC 1006.3 See exc.	Yes CFC 906.1
R-3.1 6 or less Regardless of ambulatory status	Non-Rated CBC Table 503 See special considerations in CB 425.3.2	No	No- if only 1 bedridden See provisions of CBC 425.8.3.3	Yes CBC 907.2.11.2 & 907.2.11.2.2 See CBC 420.4.1 for Carbon Monoxide alarms	No Strobes required in protective social care facilities housing any deaf person CBC 907.5.2.3.5	Two CBC 425.8.2.1 See exiting provisions of CBC 425.8.3.2 & 425.8.3.3 For exiting from client sleeping rooms.	No	Yes Must meet all req. of CBC 1008.1.9.7	Yes Hospice Can have Up to six. Others can have 1 if non-sprinklered And 6 if sprinklered. See provisions of CBC 425.8.3.3	No CBC 1011.1	No	No	Yes CFC 906.1 #1