



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

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## ATTACHMENT 11

**Date:** November 21, 2013

**To:** State Board of Fire Services

**From:** Kevin Reinertson, Division Chief, Code Development and Analysis

**SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:**

Title 24 update and national code development efforts

**Recommended Actions:**

None, informational only

**Background Information:**

None, informational only

**Analysis/Summary of Issue:**

**2013 California Building Standards Code**

The 2013 edition of the California Building Standards Code, Title 24, California Code of Regulations (13 Parts) is published and available for purchase. This bulletin provides information concerning the effective date and application, the availability of the 2013 California Building Standards Code, and local amendment of the building standards.

**Effective Date and Application of the 2013 Code**

January 1, 2014 is the statewide effective date established by the California Building Standards Commission for the 2013 California Building Standards Code.

As provided for in California Health and Safety Code, Section 18938.5, Building Standards Law, the 2013 building standards approved by the commission and that are effective at the local level at the time an application for a building permit is submitted, applies to the plans and specifications, for, and to the construction performed under that permit.

The 2010 California Building Standards Code remains in effect and is applicable to all plans and specifications, for, and to the construction performed under that building permit where the application for a building permit is submitted to the local jurisdiction on or before December 31, 2013.

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## **Enforcement Responsibility**

The California Building Standards Code, Title 24, is the established minimum regulations for the design and construction of buildings and structures in California. State law mandates that local government enforce these regulations or local ordinances with qualified reasonably necessary and generally more restrictive building standards than provided for in the California Building Standards Code.

Exceptions are building standards applicable to hospitals, state buildings, public schools and colleges that are subject to enforcement by state agencies. For detailed information regarding enforcement responsibilities, refer to Chapter 1, Division 1, commencing with Section 1.1, of the 2013 California Building Code, Part 2, Volume 1 of Title 24.

## **Amendment by Local Ordinance**

Local ordinances amending building standards approved/adopted by the Commission are subject to requirements of California law. Ordinances generally must be more restrictive standards than the building standards approved/adopted by the Commission. These amendments must be filed, as appropriate, with either the Building Standards Commission or the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Unlike California Building Standards Law, the State Housing Law (Health and Safety Code, Division 13, Part 1.5) pertaining to residential occupancies does not specify that local amendments be more restrictive.

The Commission has issued a number of information bulletins relative to local government's amendment via ordinance and the required filings. These bulletins are available on the commission's website [www.bsc.ca.gov](http://www.bsc.ca.gov) under the "Publications" tab. The most recently issued bulletins on the subject are Building Standards Bulletin 10-03 and 11-01. Additionally, examples of successfully filed local ordinances are available at the commission's website under the "Codes" tab and identified as Local Filings.

## **2013 Intervening Code Cycle**

For general information on the 2013 Intervening Code Cycle, see the 18-Month Code Adoption Cycle process.

The Commission will receive proposed code changes from several state agencies, including (but not limited to) the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), the Division of the State Architect - Access Compliance (DSA-AC), the Division of the State Architect - Structural Safety (DSA-SS), the Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM), the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), the Department of Water Resources (DWR), and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for code change consideration in the 2013 Intervening Code Cycle. Agencies can submit proposed code changes during the month of December, 2013. The proposed code change submittals include the text of the proposed changes and justification, and are reviewed in the following phases of the adoption cycle:

- 2013 Intervening Code Cycle Timeline (Attached)
- Pre-cycle Activities
- Code Advisory Committee Review (February)
- 45-Day and 15-Day Comment/Challenge Period (April - June)
- Commission Review (July)
- Approved Standards (July - September)
- Publication (January 1, 2015)
- Effective Date (July 1, 2015)

## **National Code Development and Efforts**

Throughout the years, the Office of the State Fire Marshal has been given the responsibility of developing building standards relating to fire and life safety. Because of the multi-faceted nature of fire protection, the Office of the State Fire Marshal has worked with state, national, and local government, fire officials, building officials and the private sector to develop fire and life safety building standards. Part of this activity includes developing the national code and standards for adoption here in California. This participation at the national level has benefited California by having the national exposure as well as other expert peer review of those fire safety building standards.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal recently participated at the national level code development hearings through the International Code Council (ICC) during the development hearings held in Dallas, Portland and Atlantic City for the International Building, Fire and Residential Codes that form the basis of the California Building Standards Codes. Additionally, the Office of the State Fire Marshal participates in the development of several standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) which includes NFPA 13, 13D, 13R and 72 Standards.

These code development hearings resulted in the Office of the State Fire Marshal being very successful in proposing and having adopted, into the 2015 editions of the International codes, building standards originally developed by the OSFM for the California codes. Several of those building standards include adopted include the following:

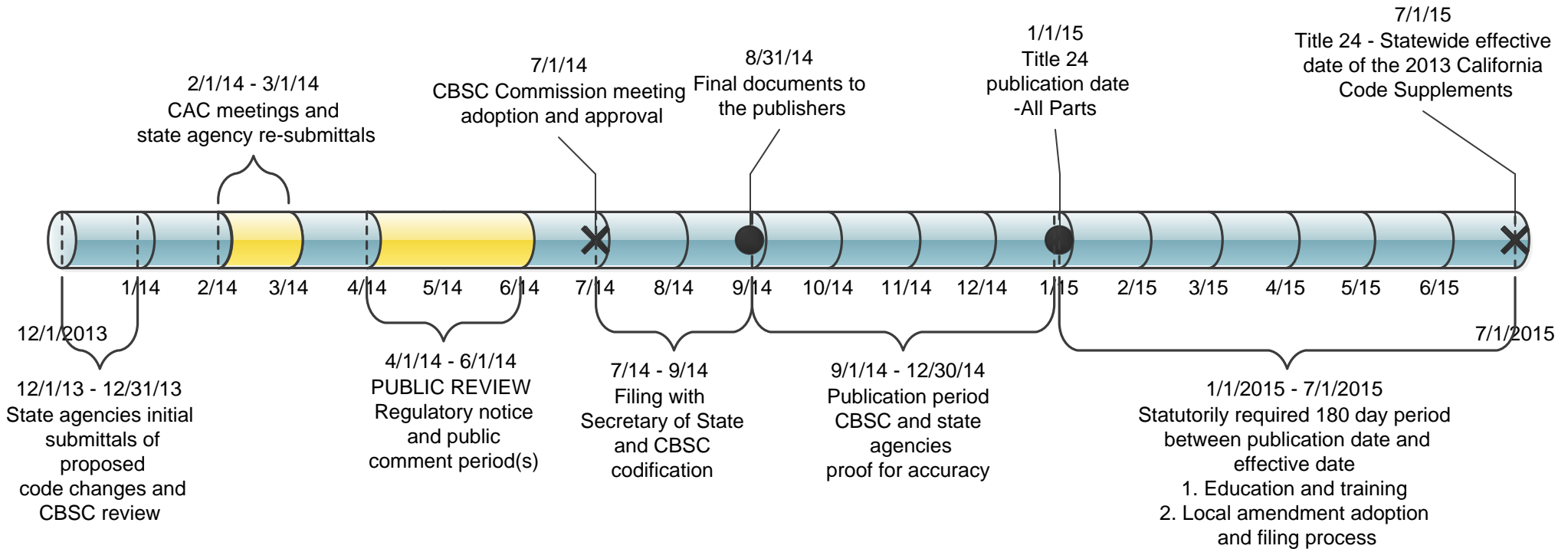
- Solar Photovoltaic (PV) fire safety provisions that provide uniformity and updated standards to the solar industry while maintaining firefighter safety,
- Smoke and heat ventilation and/or mechanical ventilation requirements for very large warehouse and factory buildings that provide for firefighter safety and maintained the economic feasibility to construct these large buildings,
- Means of egress provisions that provide clarity for enforcement officials and the design professionals.

Other items of importance to the Office of the State Fire Marshal included changes to the Fire Code in the area of carbon monoxide detectors in schools. Provisions adopted into the model code will be used as a basis for regulatory action within the California code to assist in meeting recent legislative action.

The Code Development and Analysis Division are also responsible for the acceptance of other agencies rulemaking provision if they impact fire and panic safety. Over the last few months the OSFM have been communicating with the Bureau of Home Furnishings as they submit regulatory changes to the Office of Administrative Law for flame retardant standards and testing of furniture. They OSFM carefully reviewed their package, made comments and provided approval of their document. The OSFM has also been tasked with reviewing information concerning building materials that contain flame retardant chemicals. The review by the OSFM will be in cooperation with the Bureau of Home Furnishings and will evaluate if changes are needed to building and fire codes and also will ensure that fire safety standards are not lessened.

July 1, 2015 Effective Date

# 2013 Intervening Code Cycle



## CAC Committees:

- SDLF – Structural Design/ Lateral Forces
- PEME – Plumbing, Electrical, Mechanical & Energy
- HF – Health Facilities
- GREEN – Green Building
- BFO – Building, Fire & Other
- ACCESS – Accessibility

**\* All dates are subject to change**