



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

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AMENDMENT 10

Date: May 21, 2015

To: State Board of Fire Services

From: Andrew Henning, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist)
Code Development and Analysis

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:
Regulatory Update

Recommended Actions:
Information only:

Background Information:

Flammability Standards for Building Insulation Materials Working Group (AB127)

The Working Group report is now complete and should be made public shortly. The Working Group provided the SFM two formal recommendations and an informal recommendation. The first of the formal recommendations was to perform a proof of concept testing for proposed wall, floor-ceiling, crawl space, and attic assemblies; the second formal recommendation was to form a second smaller workgroup to review the test data and develop additional recommendations. The informal recommendation was for the SMF to consider a California code change proposal to allow the use of non-flame retarded foam insulation in foundation and under slab/subgrade applications (under specific conditions). The OSFM strongly believes that efforts should continue at the national code development level in order to provide for a stronger and more cohesive built environment.

Depending on staff availability and funding, OSFM will move forward with the informal recommendation (Non-flame retarded foam insulation in foundation and under slab/subgrade), and is referring to the project as Phase II. OSFM will need to address the labeling, site storage, and site installation of the product. Fire testing will need to be conducted to look at the ignitibility differences between the FR and the non-FR. A small Working Group will need to be convened to determine the recommended job site storage/installation requirements and to ensure that overall fire safety can be maintained.

The non-flame retarded foam insulation in foundation and under slab/subgrade was proposed as a code change at the ICC Code Hearings (See Next Bullet Point) by the proponents of AB 127. The two submitted proposals did not receive committee support, but it did bring the topic to the national spotlight. OSFM supported the proposal in theory, but has concerns on the site storage and installation.

The Working Group's two formal recommendations are being referred to as Phase III of the project. Phase III will involve a large amount of fire testing of the proposed assemblies. Similar to Phase II, Phase III will depend on staff availability, funding, and the success of Phase II. Pending successful Phase III fire test results, the earliest code changes be brought forward is during the 2018 Triennial Code Adoption Cycle

OSFM will be presenting the working Group's findings at the NFPA Conference and Expo in late June. This will also help continue the national discussion on allowing non-FR, as long as overall fire safety can be maintained.

ICC 2015 Committee Action Hearings — Group A Codes

The Office of the State Fire Marshal recently participated at the International Code Council (ICC) 2015 Committee Action Hearings. The hearings were national level code development for the International Building Code (IBC) that form the basis of the California Building Code (CBC). No major changes were approved by the Committees that would negatively impact California.

The 2015 Annual Conference and Group A Public Comment Hearings will be in Long Beach from September 27 through October 6. The final changes to the 2018 IBC will be decided through both in-person and online voting via ICC's cdpACCESS. The 2018 IBC will be the basis for the 2019 CBC.

2015 Triennial Code Adoption Cycle

The OSFM, in conjunction with other State agencies, is in the process of developing and proposing Building Standards for the 2016 California Building Standards Codes. The general purpose is principally intended to update and codify a new edition of the California Building Standards Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24) that adopt by reference more current editions of the model codes. The more recent editions of the following model codes proposed to be adopted by reference are:

- 2015 International Building Code (IBC)
- 2015 International Fire Code (IFC)
- 2015 International Residential Code (IRC)
- 2014 National Electrical Code (NEC)
- 2015 Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC)
- 2015 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC)
- 2015 International Existing Building Code (IEBC)

The intent is that the final adoption package would include amendments necessary to reasonably maintain a substantially equivalent level of fire and life safety in California. This proposed action will:

- Repeal the adoption by reference of the model codes and incorporate and adopt by reference in its place more recent model codes for application and effectiveness in the 2016 California Building Standards Code pursuant to Health and Safety Code 18928. Health and Safety Code 18928 requires any State agency adopting model codes to adopt the most recent edition.
- Repeal certain amendments to the model codes and/or California building standards not addressed by the model code that are no longer necessary pursuant to Health and Safety Code 18930(a)(7).
- Adopt new California building standards or necessary California amendments to the model codes that address inadequacies of the model codes as they pertain to California laws.

- Bring forward previously existing California building standards or amendments, which represent no change in their effect from the 2013 California Building Standards Code.
- Codify non-substantive editorial and formatting amendments for the format based upon the more recent edition of the model codes.
- CFC Chapter 56 Explosives and Fireworks has had substantial changes and amendments. The changes were proposed by the California Fire Chiefs Association - Fire Prevention Officers Section, South Division. In previous editions of the CFC, the model code language was deleted and only CCR Title 19 language was printed. The newly updated chapter includes IFC model code language, CCR Title 19, and Code of Federal Regulations. No change in regulatory effect, just making the CFC more user friendly.
- Adoption of NFPA 130 Standard for Fixed Guideway Transit and Passenger Rail Systems. OSFM is repealing a majority of the amendments from CBC Section 443 on Fixed Guideway Transit Systems, to use a national standard. A Working Group will be put together in the next year to further evaluate state amendments to see if they can be repealed due to changes in Model Code Language. Currently, several projects have been using NFPA 130 as an alternate to the CBC. This will ensure consistent design throughout the state.

The State Fire Marshal, by State Law, is responsible for the coordination of the State's fire and life safety codes; and must review proposed regulations of other State agencies that promote fire and panic safety before the regulations are submitted for approval. According to the California State Building Standards Commission's (CBSC) timetable State agencies have submitted their rulemaking packages to the CBSC for adoption. The CBSC rulemaking process takes approximately one year to complete, expected publication of the 2016 California Building Standards Code July 2016 and an effective date January 1, 2017.

For additional information, please visit the State Fire Marshal Code Development and Analysis website: http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/codedevelopment/codedevelopment_title24development.php

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

None at this time