



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

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		
Prepared by	Joe Garcia, Division Chief (559) 437-1514		

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, lever-style 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.