



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	11-20-00	Interpretation #	00-021
Topic	School Lunch Shelters		
Code Section(s)	§203, California Building Code (1998 ed)		
Requested by	David E. Casey Division of the State Architect Department of General Services 16680 West Bernardo Drive San Diego, CA 92127		
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What building standards are applicable to open-sided “lunch shelters” on school grounds?

At first glance, it may seem that these “lunch shelters” create a minimal impact to the rest of the facility or to adjacent buildings. However, the use of these structures cannot be policed. Consequently, they may be used for other purposes other than for protection from the weather while students eat their lunches. For example, they may be used for storage of combustibles or electrical equipment. These structures would meet the definition of a “building” as per Section 203, and therefore, must be treated as such. The occupancy classification would be based on the occupant load.