



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

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| Date Issued | 11-20-00 | Interpretation # | 00-023 |
| Topic | Minimum State Standards | | |
| Code Section(s) | Article 81, California Fire Code (1998 ed) | | |
| Requested by | Jesse P. Perez, Fire Marshal Los Angeles County Fire Department 1320 North Eastern Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90063-3294 | | |
| Prepared by | Joe Garcia, Division Chief (559437-1514) | | |

- 1. Does the adoption of Article 81 of the California Fire Code apply to all occupancies as defined in the California Building Code (including S Occupancies)?**

Sections 18938 (b) and 18941.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, speak to the application of building standards adopted by the State Building Standards Commission (BSC). These statutes basically state that building standards contained in the Uniform Fire Code and the Uniform Building Code adopted by the BSC shall apply to all occupancies throughout the State. This interpretation is upheld by an Attorney General's Opinion.

- 2. Can a local authority adopt less restrictive amendments to Article 81?**

No. We recognize that later editions of the Uniform Fire Code and the International Fire Code include amendments to some sections currently found in the 1998 edition of the Uniform Fire Code. However, requirements found Section 8102 of the 1998 edition of the Uniform Fire Code are currently the minimum standard because of its adoption by the Building Standards Commission. Locally adopted regulations may not be less restrictive than minimum state standards. We recommend that your department's legal counsel review the Attorney General's Opinion on this issue. A copy of the opinion may be secured through the Building Standards Commission at 1130 "K" Street #101, Sacramento, CA 95814.