



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	9/01/2005	Interpretation #	05-016
Topic	Smoke Dampers at Shafts		
Code Section(s)	2001 California Building Code Section 713.10.1.3		
Requested by	Brian E. Smith, Principal The Engineering Enterprise 1305 Marina Village Parkway Alameda, CA 94501		

CBC 713.10.1 #3 requires that smoke dampers be provided at “penetrations of shaft enclosures,” with the following exception; “exhaust-only openings serving continuously operating fans and protected using the provisions of chapter 9.” Under this exception, we have found there to be a number of different interpretations with respect to the statement “protected using the provisions of chapter 9.” the most common application to meet this requirement is to connect the exhaust fans to an emergency power source. In some applications we have been required to furnish the fans with an extra belt. In other applications the fans were required to have a temperature rating that allowed them to operate at 165 degrees F.

1. Is it the intent of this code section, and specifically the Chapter 9 reference, to have the exhaust fans meet one or all of the above requirements?

The exhaust fans shall meet the requirements of Chapter 9, Section 905.7.6.

2. Are there any other requirements to meet Chapter 9?

There are no other requirements to meet Chapter 9 for exhaust fans.

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3. Is it the intent of the code to require a specific exhaust rate for fans based on the exception above in reference to chapter 9?

No.