



## California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	May 9, 2008	Interpretation	08-014
Topic	Does a sliding glass door meet the requirement for an exit		
Code Section(s)	2001 CBC 415A		
Requested by	Rob Ball, Fire Marshal Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District 10500 Civic Center Drive Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730		

**The following is a formal request for a State Fire Marshal Code Interpretation regarding door requirements when an existing non-sprinklered, six or fewer non-ambulatory residential care facility (R-2.1.1) wishes to house bedridden client.**

**The pertinent code sections are: Section 415A of the 2001 California Building Code.**

**Section 415A.3 says that “a direct exit to the exterior of the residence shall be provided from the client sleeping room.” Section 415A.4 goes on to discuss the doors (plural) serving the bedridden client’s sleeping room. That section says, “Doors to a bedridden client’s sleeping room shall be of a self-closing, positive latching 1-3/8 inch solid wood door. Doors shall be maintained self-closing or shall be automatic closing by actuation of a smoke alarm in accordance with Section 713.”**

**Given that: 1) A direct exit to the exterior from the client’s sleeping room is required, 2) Doors (plural) serving the client’s sleeping room have to be self-closing, positive latching 1-3/8” solid wood doors, and 3) There is no distinction made in Section 415A.4 between interior and exterior doors, was it or is it the intent of the code to allow a sliding glass door to meet the “direct exit to the exterior” requirement so long as the sliding glass door meets the criteria in Sections 415A.5 and 415A.6?**

Yes.

**Is the answer to this question the same for a new facility of this type that is subject to the provisions of Section 425.8.3.3 of the 2007 California Building Code?**

Yes, except, current code requires the exterior door to be operable from both the inside and the outside by the facility staff.

Note: If additional hardware that is used on a sliding glass door to allow it to be operable from the inside and outside by staff impedes the 32" clear width than the sliding glass door cannot be used.