

HOW TO REQUEST A CODE INTERPRETATION FROM SFM

Request a code interpretation by following these requirements:

1. All requests must be submitted utilizing the SFM application for code interpretation. The SFM will **NOT** accept requests submitted by phone, fax or E-mail. [Click here for: [Code Interpretation Application form](#)]
2. Interpretation request from governmental agencies (including fire departments) must be from the fire chief, fire marshal, building official or other administration manager.
3. Completed code interpretation request must be mailed to:

Code Interpretation Committee
Office of the State Fire Marshal
Fire & Life Safety Division
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Please allow 60 to 90 days for a draft interpretation to be posted.

After SFM staff have reviewed your request and developed a response, a DRAFT interpretation will typically be posted on the SFM web site for a ten-day comment period. Comments will be accepted by e-mail directly to CodeInterpretation@fire.ca.gov or by mail to the above noted address.

If you should have any questions regarding this process please feel free to contact the Code Interpretation Committee at (916) 445-8337 or CodeInterpretation@fire.ca.gov.

There is a significant difference between a code interpretation question and a code application question. Code interpretations provide the context and background of specific code sections, whereas a code application question provides information regarding the application of the codes to a specific facility or project. Code application questions are directed to the appropriate Division. Specific questions regarding SFM regulated programs, for example fire extinguishers, fireworks, or building materials listings, will be directed to the specific program staff.