California is the national leader for hydrogen vehicles and related infrastructure. This has been aided by the implementation of Executive Order B-16-2012 issued to “encourage the development and success of zero-emission vehicles.” The Governor’s Executive Order directs State government to meet a series of milestones toward a long-term target of 1.5 million ZEVs on California’s roadways by 2025.

In December 2015, the Building Standards Commission approved the State Fire Marshal’s rulemaking packages for the 2015 Triennial Code Adoption Cycle. The 2015 Triennial Code Adoption Cycle will culminate with the publication of the 2016 California Building Standards Code, Title 24, California Code of Regulations. The 2016 codes will be published on or before July 1, 2016 with an effective date of January 1, 2017 for statewide application.

The 2016 California Fire Code (CFC) adopts by reference the 2016 Edition of National Fire Protection Association 2 (NFPA 2 Hydrogen Technologies Code). NFPA 2 provides fundamental safeguards for the generation, installation, storage, piping, use and handling of hydrogen in compressed gas or liquid form. This standard has undergone intense industry scrutiny and engineering peer review through the NFPA adoption process. Local Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) may consider using the 2016 edition of NFPA 2 on a case-by-case basis (in accordance the alternate means and methods of construction provisions contained in CFC Section 1.11.2.4 and 104.11 for permitting and installation of hydrogen facilities).

Questions or comments regarding this Information Bulletin should be directed to Andrew Henning, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) at (916)445-8527, or by electronic mail to andrew.henning@fire.ca.gov.