

2025 California CFC Code Significant Changes

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Summary

Significant Changes Include:

- **Administrative & Regulatory Changes**
References for hazardous materials and Risk Management Plans now point to CCR Title 19, Division 5 (CalEPA). Local fire prevention authorities confirmed as having delegated clearance authority per H&S Code §§13145–13146.
- **Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)**
New California Wildland-Urban Interface Code (CWUIC) created as Part 7 of Title 24. CFC Chapter 49 deleted; related code references updated across several chapters.
- **Energy Storage Systems (ESS)**
Added permit exemptions for stationary and mobile ESS serving detached one- and two-family dwellings and also townhouses.
- **Battery Storage & Safety**
Comprehensive update covering all battery types (lithium-ion, lithium-metal, and others). Includes standards for storage, collection, labeling, waste handling, fire protection, and signage. Clarifies that small consumer batteries (tools, radios, etc.) are not regulated under this section.
- **Definitions & Occupancy Classifications**
Added new battery type definitions to match modern technology and NFPA 855. Group E (Child Care) expanded to include facilities for 6–100 children under 36 months, with special provisions.
- **Fire Protection & Alarm Systems**
Existing amendments realigned with the 2024 International Fire Code (IFC). Updates to sprinklers, alarms, standpipes, and detection systems, including special amusement areas.
- **Egress & Life Safety**
Restored emergency lighting requirements for I-2 occupancies. Added two-way communication systems for horizontal exit compartments (with exceptions for I-2 and I-3). Updated corridor fire-resistance standards for Group I-4 occupancies.
- **Temporary Structures & Events**
All fabrics and decorative materials for tents or event structures must be flame-resistant per CCR Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 8.
- **Referenced Standards**
All referenced standards throughout the CFC have been revised to the latest available editions for consistency with national model codes.

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New	Change	Code Section	Code Topic	Revision and Remarks
Chapter 1 – Scope and Administration				
	X	1.11.2.4	Request for alternate means of protection	Updated the <i>reference pointer</i> to California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 19 due to program changes in the requirements of Risk Management Plans and the handling of hazardous materials under the oversight of CalEPA (AB 148, Stats. 2021). These programs were previously in CCR Title 19, Division 2 (CalOES), but are now located in Title 19, Division 5 (CalEPA), and have been effective as of March 6, 2024.
	X	1.11.4.4	Fire clearance pre-inspection fees and delegation of authority	Corrected the reference pointer which delegates authority from the State Fire Marshal to the local fire prevention enforcement authority, as governed by Health and Safety Code Sections 13145 and 13146.
X		102.13	Wildland-Urban Interface Applicability	Added a new section providing reference to the newly adopted California Wildland Urban Interface Code (CWUIC), Part 7 of Title 24. As a result of the creation of the CWUIC, Chapter 49 is deleted from the California Fire Code (CFC). Other changes affect provisions and references in CFC Chapters 2 and 3, and Appendix P, as well as chapters in the California Building Code and California Residential Code (Parts 2 and 2.5 of Title 24).
	X	105.5.14	Energy Storage Systems Operational Permits	Provided exceptions to requirements for an operational permit for stationery and mobile ESS for detached one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses, other than Group R-4.
Chapter 2 – Definitions				
	X	202	Definitions related to battery types	Amended model code definitions and added several new battery type definitions to correlate with current International Fire Code and NFPA 855 technology requirements. The intent is to increase understanding of the application of code requirements to new technologies with no associated increases in technical requirements
	X	203	Occupancy classification and use	Occupancy classification definitions have been relocated from Section 202 into new Section 203 in 2024 IFC, so existing 2022 amendments to these definitions have been relocated also.
	X	203.4.2 & 203.7.4.1	Classification as Group E and child-care facilities	Amended the exception to Group E child-care facilities and added language with special provisions to include those occupancies providing care for 6-100 children under 36 months of age, allowing them to operate when in compliance with special requirements

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Chapter 3 – General Requirements				
X		320	Battery storage	Replaced existing amendments in 2022 CFC Section 322 with new 2024 IFC Section 320 which has been amended in 2025 CFC to address all battery storage regardless of the battery type.
	X	320.1	Battery storage General -Exceptions	Added Exemption 6 to clarify it is not the intent of this 64 2025 Summary of California Code Changes section to regulate miscellaneous small consumer-size batteries in equipment (radios, power tools, etc.), or batteries staged or charging as commonly found in maintenance areas, fire stations, contractor shops, etc.
X		320.1.1 - 320.1.2	Battery Types	Added new sections to address storage of lithium-ion, lithium metal, and other battery types.
	X	320.4.1.1	Unused or unwanted battery collection	Revised to clarify batteries placed loose into open-top containers is for collection of used or unwanted batteries from the public or a building's employees (NFPA 855).
X		320.4.1.2	Waste storage	Added a common practice provision for limited storage (DOT regulations) to require batteries be placed in bags to prevent short-circuiting and space between filled with vermiculite. The quantity is still limited to 15 cf
X		320.4.1.3	Miscellaneous storage	Added new section to clarify that other storage configurations are allowed. Provides for storage in original wholesale shipping containers and DOT packaging which has undergone extensive testing for shipping of lithium-ion batteries and cells.
X	X	320.4.3	Outdoor storage and subsections	Added requirements for a technical report to evaluate the fire and explosion risks associated with outdoor storage of lithium-ion and lithium-metal batteries and to make recommendations for fire and explosion protection. Revised and updated existing amendments that were relocated and merged with new model code sections to address the following requirements: • Distance from storage to exposures • Storage area size limits and separation • Fire detection • Containers • Weather protection

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New	Change	Code Section	Code Topic	Revision and Remarks
X		320.5	Other Battery Types General and subsections	Added amendments providing general guidance for safe storage of batteries other than lithium-ion and lithium-metal consistent with updated requirements and standards of care in the industry, including the following: • Impact protection • Battery charging and long-term storage practices • Mechanical exhaust requirements • Spill control capabilities • Hazard warning signage and NFPA 704 placarding
Chapter 9 – Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems				
	X	903.3.1.1.1	Automatic Fire Sprinkler -Exempt locations	Deleted existing amendment Number 6 in the listed locations regarding elevator hoistways, machine rooms, machinery spaces, control spaces and control rooms, and the reference pointer to CBC Section 3005.4.1.
	X	903.4.3	Alarms	Deleted existing amendment regarding visible alarm notification and reference pointer to Section 907.
	X	905.4	Location of Class I standpipe hose connections	Deleted model code language in Item 6 that was an existing amendment that was overlooked in the 2022 CFC (amendment was not carried forward).
	X	907.2.12	Special amusement areas- Fire Detection & Alarm Systems	Repealed and replaced some existing amendments with model code language in Section 907.2.12, and blended existing amendment regarding exit access into new model code language to carry forward existing provisions. Repealed amendments in model code Sections 907.2.12.1 - 907.2.12.3 as these sections do not exist in 2024 IFC. New reference pointer to existing occupancy-based requirements in Section 914.7.
	X	915.4.4	Carbon Monoxide Alarm Interconnection	Replaced new model language with existing amendment as 2024 IFC has copied portions of the California amendment but left out the majority of the information needed for clarity and consistency in implementation and enforcement.
X		915.6.1	Carbon Monoxide and carbon monoxide detection system maintenance in enclosed parking garages	Added an amendment to coordinate with the existing provision in Section 403.7.2 of the California Mechanical Code.

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Chapter 10 – Means of Egress				
X		1008.3	Group I-2 Illumination areas required by an emergency electrical system	Added amendment to reinstate provisions published in several previous editions of the California Building Code to address previously adopted requirement for egress lighting for I-2 occupancies and align with provisions published in National Fire Protection Association 101 – The Life Safety Code.
	X	1009.4.1	Elevator Standby power Signaling Device Requirements	Pointer added to reference CCR, Title 8 Chapter 4, Subchapter 6, Elevator Safety orders.
	X	1015.2	Guards -Where required	Added new amendment to align with the California Building Code.
	X	Table 1020.2	Corridor fire-resistance rating	Modified existing amendment to repeal line-item for occupancy Group E, and to require one-hour fire resistance rating for corridors with sprinklers in occupancy Group I-4.
	X	1026.6	Two-way communication	Added an amendment specifying that two-way communication systems must be installed in all horizontal exit compartments. An Exception for I-2 and I-3 facilities is provided. Aligned with the same section in the California Building Code.
Chapter 31 – Tents, Temporary Special Event Structures and Other Membrane Structures				
	X	3104.2	Flame propagation performance testing and registration	Laboratory testing and CSFM requirements added to existing section in addition to pointers referencing CCR Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 8
	X	3106.3	Combustible materials in Inflatable Amusement Devices	Added amendments to clarify that all fabrics and all interior decorative fabrics or materials shall be flame resistant in accordance with the provisions set forth in California Code of Regulations, Title 19 (Public Safety), Division 1, Chapter 8.
Chapter 41 – Temporary Heating and Cooking Operations				
X		4101 - 4105	Temporary Heating & Cooking Operations	Chapter 41 provides all requirements relative to temporary heating and cooking operations, including mobile food trucks, in a single chapter. This chapter is intended to facilitate consistent enforcement of temporary heating and cooking operations by making the requirements more straightforward. Multiple Sections were relocated from other chapters to create more straightforward requirements.

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Chapter 49 – Requirements for Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Fire Areas				
	X	N/A	WUI Chapter Deleted and moved to CWUIC	Added a "User Note" to direct code users to the new California Wildland-Urban Interface Code. This chapter is deleted from the CFC.
Chapter 80 – Referenced Standards				
	X	N/A	Various Referenced Standards	Updated adoption of referenced standards to the newest editions published and available for adoption.

