



News for California Building Departments

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Previous Issues


In this newsletter you will find information useful to California Building Departments, including:

 2007 Code Adoption cycle

 Detectable warning surfaces (those "yellow bumps")

 Green Building Websites


 Dates of events and training


 And more...

Legislation of Interest to Building Departments

The deadline for introducing legislation for the second year of the 2007-2008 session was February 22, 2008. The following new bills have impact on building codes and building departments if passed. Descriptions are abbreviated.



 AB 2529, introduced on February 21, 2008, proposes to require the State Architect to post all fees relating to the Certified Access Specialist Program (CASP) established by on the DSA website. The CASP enacted by SB 262 (Chapter 872/Statutes of 2003) requires implementing regulations that are still not adopted. This may be a spot bill with amendments to occur later in the session.

 AB 2554, introduced on February 22, 2008, proposes to extend the time for the Department of Housing and Community Development to assume enforcement responsibilities when a local government surrenders enforcement of the Mobilehome Park Act, Special Occupancy Park Act, or Employee Housing Act, from 30 days to 120 days.

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Important Dates

April 8, 2008: CALBO Annual Leadership and Advocacy Day. See details at the [CALBO website](#).


May 5-11, 2008: ICC Building Safety Week. Details and program materials for local use are available on the [ICC Website](#).


May 21, 2008: California Building Standards Commission Hearing. Watch for an agenda on the [CBSC website](#).

May 27-30 2008: CALBO Education Week at Modesto. See details at the [CALBO website](#).



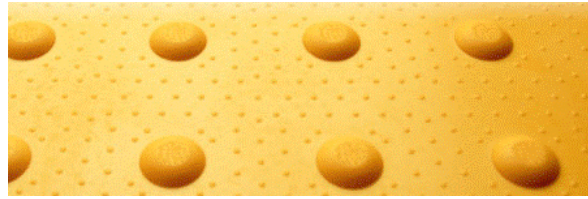
Look for these issues by icon:

 Accessibility

 Green building

 Building code

 Energy



What's Up With the State?

On March 20, 2008 the Division of the State Architect (DSA) completed an update to the California Access Compliance Reference Manual based on current codes. It includes selected state laws and provisions of the 2007 California Building Code, DSA Policies and Interpretation of Regulations (IR), accessibility checklists and more. The 583 page manual may be accessed at the [DSA website](#) (under Accessibility).

Did You Know?


Did you know that **detectable warning surfaces** with truncated domes required on public sidewalk curb ramps do not need to be yellow? It's true! Most every street corner has or is being fitted with yellow detectable warnings to aid persons with sight impairments. The color yellow became common possibly because of the language in Chapter 11A of the 2001 California Building Code (CBC) regarding housing accessibility. However that language was superseded with the rewritten Chapter 11A that became effective on May 2, 2007. Now Chapter 11A Section 1112A.9 contains only a referral to Section 1127B.5, #7, of Chapter 11B of the 2007 CBC. Additionally, Chapter 11A never applied to public sidewalks in the public way.


Section 1127B.5, #7 in 2007 CBC Chapter 11B, is written by the California Division of the State Architect (DSA) and applies to sidewalks in the public way. It states that the detectible warning surface "shall contrast visually with adjoining surfaces, either light-on-dark or dark-on-light." The detectible warning shall be "an integral part of the walking surface." The truncated domes may be created in cast-in-place concrete by the use of a form or by stamping, or may be part of a prefabricated surface to be applied to the ramp. There is no specific color requirement, albeit the most commonly used color is yellow.


Prefabricated materials are subject to the standards adopted by DSA in Chapter 12-11A of Part 12 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations. Such materials are required to be evaluated by an independent entity selected by DSA. However, the evaluation program is not yet in place and there is no listing of DSA approved materials. Local Building Departments must determine if proposed materials meet the intent of Section 1127B.5, #7 of the 2007 CBC.

It should also be noted that detectable warning surfaces are required on curb ramps regardless of slope. In the superseded 2001 CBC, the detectable warning surface was required only when the ramp slope was less than 1:15 (6.7%). The 2007 CBC Chapter 11B makes no reference to slope.

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 The **2007 Code Adoption Cycle** has now progressed to the last stage before public hearings. A 45-day public comment period on the proposed amendments and additions to the 2007 California Building Standards Code in Title 24 began on March 28, 2008. Over the past several months the Code Advisory Committees of the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) have met, considered the proposed amendments and additions and developed recommendations to the CBSC. The state agencies proposing the amendments and additions have addressed the Code Advisory Committee comments and finalized the proposed language. Any public comments received during the **public comment period** may result in additional amendments to the proposals. Adoption will be the subject of a CBSC hearing planned for July 17, 2008 in Sacramento.

 The 2007 Code Adoption Cycle includes **Green Building Standards** developed by the CBSC and the Department of Housing and Community Development. If adopted the standards will be located in Part 11 of Title 24, which has been previously vacant. The proposed Green Building Standards include voluntary requirements for commercial occupancies and mandatory requirements for housing applicable in 2010. Find all the proposed building standards at the [CBSC website](#).

 The development of the **2008 California Energy Code** to be effective in 2009 continues to progress. The California Energy Commission has held public hearings regarding the proposed changes and adoption is planned for April 23, 2008 with the standards effective on June 1, 2009. These dates are subject to change. The adopted provisions will replace the 2007 California Energy Code in Part 6 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations. Find the proposal at the [CEC website](#).



Did You Know?

Detectable Warning Surfaces

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For additional information about detectable warning surfaces refer to DSA's Interpretation of Regulations (IR)

#11B-3 and #11B-4, and DSA's Bulletin dated October 31, 2002, updated September 27, 2004, and updated California Access Compliance Reference Manual.

These documents are available at [DSA's website](#). Look for the link to "Accessibility".

Useful Websites

[State Fire Marshal](#)

[California Legislature](#)

[Division of State Architect](#)

[Department of Housing and Community Development](#)

[California Energy Commission](#)

[California Building Standards Commission](#)

[U.S. Green Building Council](#)

[Environmental Building News](#)

Legislation of Interest to Building Departments

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AB 2939, as amended on March 24, 2008, proposes to allow local amendments to any green building standards adopted by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. Conditions are specified and exclude modifications to the California Energy Standards in Title 24.



SB 1473, introduced on February 21, 2008, proposes to amend and add new provisions to the California Building Standards Law in Health and Safety Code, Division 13, Part 2.5, regarding green building standards. The bill will establish a Building Standards Administration Special Revolving Fund to be funded by fees collected by local building departments. The Fund is to be used to cover the cost of the Building Standards Commission's work to carryout the mandates of law with emphasis on green building standards.

See these bills at the [Legislative website](#).



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