



Certified Access Specialist
Program

Did You Know?



Did you know you can now become a **Certified Access Specialist**? On July 30, 2008, after more than four years of effort, the Certified Access Specialist program regulations developed by the Division of the State Architect (DSA) became effective. The regulations are located in the California Code of Regulations, Title 21, Division 1, Subchapter 2.5, commencing with Section 111. These regulations may be accessed through the Office of Administrative Law or the DSA website, www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov/. The DSA site has a handbook available with information about the application and examination process, fees, scope of examination, and sample examination questions. The handbook is essential for preparing for the examination. There is also a sample examination.

The scope of the CASp examination includes accessibility subjects from California law and California Building Code, and federal laws and access standards. Applicants must submit a completed application to DSA with a \$500 fee. Applicants determined to be eligible are scheduled for the examination for a fee of \$800. Those passing the 2.5-hour closed book multiple-choice examination are issued a certificate upon remittance of a \$300 fee. The total fee for the application, examination and certification is \$1,600. DSA conducted the first examination on September 29, 2008 in Sacramento and Hawthorne. Applications may be completed online and submitted to DSA at any time. Watch the DSA website www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov/Access/casp.htm for the next examination date.

At present this is a voluntary certification program. However, with the passage of SB 1608 discussed in our Legislative section [herein](#), on and after July 1, 2010, a local agency must employ or retain at least one building inspector who is a certified access specialist. On and after January 1, 2014, each local agency must employ or retain a sufficient number of building inspectors who are certified access specialists.

Photos of projects plan-checked or inspected by Willdan



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Important Dates



November 2-6 2008: CALBO Education Week in Ontario. See details at the CALBO website www.calbo.org.

November 19 2008: California Building Standards Commission Hearing. Watch for an agenda on the CBSC website www.bsc.ca.gov.

December 13 2008: Last day to apply for IAPMO Certification examinations to be held on January 17 2009 in Oakland, Oroville, Ontario, Sacramento and Ventura. See IAPMO's website www.iapmo.org/ for details.

January 1 2009: 2008 Chaptered (passed) legislative bills become effective. See details [herein](#) of legislation of interest to building departments.

News for California Building Departments

In this issue:

- ▶ Certified Access Specialist (see Did You Know)
- ▶ New requirements for disability access continuing education (see Legislation of Interest)
- ▶ New fees to cover green building standards mandates (see Legislation of Interest)
- ▶ Emergency Wildland Urban Interface regulations for manufactured housing (see What's Up...)
- ▶ 2008 California Energy Code (see What's Up...)

 Look for this icon for Green Building news

Useful Websites

State Fire Marshal - osfm.fire.ca.gov

California Legislature - www.leginfo.ca.gov

Department of Housing and Community Development
- www.hcd.ca.gov

California Energy Commission - www.energy.ca.gov

California Building Standards Commission-www.bsc.ca.gov

Environmental Building News - www.buildinggreen.com

Office of Administrative Law - www.oal.ca.gov

Legislation of Interest to Building Departments

The 2007/2008 legislative session has ended with three bills passing of interest to building departments. Some provisions become effective on January 1, 2009. The following descriptions are abbreviated so be sure to access each bill at the legislature's website (www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html) for the complete text.

SB1608 (Chapter 549 of the 2008 Statutes) creates the California Commission on Disability Access to conduct investigations and issue reports to the Legislature on the effectiveness of state accessibility codes and quality of code enforcement. The bill also enacts requirements on and after January 1, 2009 for Architects to complete **disability access continuing education** as a condition of license renewal. Inspectors, plans examiners, and building officials must complete 8 hours of continuing education relating to disability access requirements among the currently required 45 hours of continuing education each three years. On and after July 1, 2010, **a local agency must employ or retain at least one building inspector who is a certified access specialist** and, commencing January 1, 2014, to employ or retain a sufficient number of building inspectors who are certified access specialists. Local government may establish or increase inspection fees to offset the costs of complying with these provisions.

The bill also enacts the Construction-Related Accessibility Standards Compliance Act within the California Civil Code, which will provide for the inspection of sites by certified access specialists, issuance of specified certificates and reports regarding those inspections and a process for resolving claims of noncompliance.

SB1473 (Chapter 719 of the 2009 Statutes) adds new provisions to the California Building Standards Law in Health and Safety Code, Division 13, Part 2.5, establishing **new fees**. The bill establishes 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 work by the Building Standards Commission (CBSC) and the Department of Housing and Community Development to carryout mandates of law with emphasis on green building standards. **Each city, county, or city and county must collect a fee** from any applicant for a building permit, assessed at the rate of

What's Up With the State?

The 2007 Code Adoption Cycle is still in progress with some proposed additions, deletions and amendments to Title 24 adopted at a public hearing held by the Building Standards Commission in Sacramento on July 17, 2008. The planned effective date for most of the adoptions will be July 1, 2009. Matters still pending adoption before the CBSC include amendments for the building, mechanical and plumbing codes.



Once the adoption process is complete the new provisions will be issued to holders of the code when published in the form of supplements on blue paper. For the complete regulatory text of all the recent adoptions go to the CBSC website, www.bsc.ca.gov/.

- Among the adoptions on July 17, 2008 was the new California Green Building Standards of voluntary requirements for commercial occupancies and housing to be Part 11 of Title 24. However, the new Part 11 will become effective concurrently with the 2010 California Building Standards Code (Title 24) planned for 2011.
- The California Energy Commission adopted the **2008 California Energy Code** (Part 6 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations) on April 23, 2008, and the Building Standards Commission approved the standards for publication on September 11, 2008. The 2008 standards will apply to projects where the application for permit is made on or after the effective date of July 1, 2009. Find these standards at the CEC website www.energy.ca.gov/title24/index.html. Holders of the 2007 California Energy Code will receive the 2008 code as a supplement.
- The Department of Housing and Community Development adopted emergency **Wildland Urban Interface** regulations for manufactured housing effective September 1, 2008. The emergency regulations apply to the exterior design, construction, installation and alteration of any new or used manufactured home, multifamily manufactured home or commercial modular or used mobilehome designated for installation in a Wildland Urban Interface Fire Area. The emergency regulations are adopted into California Code of Regulations, Title 25, Chapter 3, Subchapter 2, and adopt by reference portions of the 2007 California Building Code, Chapter 7A (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2). Local building departments should review these regulations to determine enforcement responsibilities.

The emergency regulations are effective for 180 days; from September 1, 2008 through February 27, 2009. During this time HCD will proceed with a regular rulemaking action to include a public comment period. That process will result in final WUI regulations for manufactured housing. Find the emergency regulations and other information at the HCD website www.hcd.ca.gov/codes/ under the Manufactured Housing Program, then under the title Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Emergency Regulations.

- The Division of the State Architect adopted Certified Access Compliance program (CASp) regulations effective July 30, 2008. This is the subject of our Did You Know? section [herein](#).

Legislation of Interest to Building Departments, continued

\$4 per \$100,000 in valuation. A city, county, or city and county may retain not more than 10% of the fees collected for related administrative costs and for code enforcement education, including certifications in the voluntary construction inspector certification program. The remainder of the collected fee must be remitted to the CBSC.

AB2554 (Chapter 138 of the 2008 Statutes) amends provisions within portions of the Health and Safety Code known as the Mobilehome Park Act, Special Occupancy Park Act, and Employee Housing Act. On and after January 1, 2009, when a local jurisdiction wishes to surrender the enforcement responsibility for mobilehome and special occupancy parks, or employee housing, the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) will assume the enforcement responsibility after 90 days instead of 30 days. The bill requires collected fees to be transferred to HCD.

AB2925 and **AB2939** followed during the year were both vetoed by the Governor.