

Frequently Asked Questions – Health Facility Construction

Fire and Life Safety

All code sections cited are based on the 2007 California Building Code (CBC), unless otherwise noted.

General

- 1. Who decides what fire alarm and fire sprinkler deferred submittal plans can be reviewed in the field?**

The decision to review these plans is based on OSHPD staff workload. The field Fire and Life Safety Officer decides what fire alarm and fire sprinkler deferred submittal plans are reviewed in the field. The OSHPD FREER Manual is used as a guide for these projects. Please refer to:

www.oshpd.ca.gov/FDD/Plan_Review/Documents/FREER.PDF.

- 2. What are the code requirements for temporary construction barriers?**

Please refer to OSHPD's Code Application Notice (CAN) 9-8705.4 at:

www.oshpd.ca.gov/FDD/Regulations/CANS/2007/9-1401.pdf.

Smoke Barriers

- 1. Are smoke compartment walls required to be provided in ground level lobbies?**

Smoke barriers for occupancies in Groups I-2 and I-2.1 shall be provided to subdivide every story used by patients for sleeping or treatment and to divide other stories with an occupant load of 50 or more persons, into at least two smoke compartments. Section 407.4 contains additional requirements and exceptions.

General Building Limitations

[Space reserved for future questions.]

Fire-resistant Materials and Construction

- 1. In non-combustible construction, is a fire block required at the corridor ceiling?**

No. Fire blocking is only required in combustible construction in accordance with Section 717.

2. When is a T-Rating required for penetrations?

Section 712.4.1.1 governs penetration firestop systems for through penetrations of floors, floor-ceiling, and roof-ceiling assemblies.

Fire Alarm

1. Are conduits and boxes allowed to be installed prior to OSHPD's approval of a fire alarm deferred submittal?

No. Section 7-153(d) 2, Part 1, Title 24 requires that submittal documents must be approved by OSHPD prior to the installation of deferred submittal items.

2. Where should the pull station be located in relationship to an exit?

Section 5.12.6, NFPA 72, 2002 edition, states that manual fire alarm boxes must be located within five feet of the exit doorway opening at each exit on each floor.

Fire/Smoke Dampers (FSD)

1. Can a horizontal FSD be used at the top of a shaft or does a rated enclosure "dog house" need to be constructed so the installation of a vertical FSD can be used?

If the damper is listed for the application, as required by Section 716.5.3, additional framing or a "dog house" is not required.

Means of Egress

1. What code requirements apply to access control devices (magnetic locks) on path of egress doors?

Access-controlled egress doors are not permitted in Group I occupancies in accordance with Section 1008.1.3.4. Delayed egress locks are permitted in Group I occupancies in accordance with Section 1008.1.8.6.

2. Does OSHPD allow the installation of alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers in corridors?

Yes. Alcohol-based hand-rub dispensers are permitted in corridors in Group I-2 occupancies in accordance with Section 1003.3.3.1.