



## California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	December 3, 2018	Interpretation	18-007
Topic	Change of Occupancy Use		
Code Section(s)	2016 CFC §102.3, 903.2, 903.2.12, 1101.1, 1101.2, 1103.5		
Requested by	Timothy Spears Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District		
Date Received	March 1, 2018		

**Question 1:**

Do the provisions of California Fire Code sections 903.2 and 903.2.1.2 apply to an existing building or facility that experiences a change in use or occupancy as identified in CFC section 102.3 from a Group M to a Group A-2 with a proposed occupant load greater than 100?

**Response 1:**

Yes. Per CFC Section 102.3, changes shall not be made in use or occupancy of any structure that would place the structure in a different division of the same group or occupancy or in a different group of occupancies, unless such structure is made to comply with the requirements of this code and the California Building Code.

**Question 2:**

Is a building with a change in use from a Group M to a Group A-2, with a proposed occupant load greater than 100, required to install an automatic fire sprinkler system in accordance with CFC 903.2.1.2?

**Response 2:**

Yes.

**Question 3:**

Do the code sections located in 2016 CFC Chapter 11, Construction Requirements for Existing Buildings, supersede the requirements elsewhere in the Fire Code for a building undergoing a change in use or occupancy?

**Response 3:**

No. The provisions of Chapter 11 would not be applicable for requirements resulting in a change of use of an existing building, unless specifically adopted by local ordinance.  
Note: The OSFM only adopts specific portions of Chapter 11.

**Question 4:**

Do the conditions in section 1103.5, Sprinkler Systems, supersede the conditions located in section 903.2.1.2 for installing a fire sprinkler system in a building undergoing a change in use?

**Response 4:**

No. The conditions in section 1103.5 would not be applicable for requirements resulting in a change of use of an existing building.

**\*\*Note:** Section 1103.5 is not adopted by the Office of the State Fire Marshal