



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
Code Development and Analysis Division**

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 568-3800
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



HOW TO REQUEST A CODE INTERPRETATION

Request a code interpretation by following these requirements:

1. All requests must be submitted utilizing the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Code Interpretation Application. The OSFM will **NOT** accept requests submitted by phone, fax or E-mail.
2. Interpretation request from governmental agencies (including fire departments) must be from the fire chief, fire marshal, building official or other administration manager.
3. Completed code interpretation request must be mailed to:

Code Interpretation Committee
Office of the State Fire Marshal
Code Development and Analysis Division
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

If you should have any questions regarding this process please feel free to contact the Code Interpretation Committee at codeinterpretationrequest@fire.ca.gov.

An official code interpretation is a formal determination of the intent of a code provision. Official code interpretations are reviewed and vetted by the Code Interpretation Committee and approved by the State Fire Marshal. Once approved, they are published to provide a consistent statewide understanding of the intent of a code section and may be relied upon as an official interpretation of the code.

Not every request submitted for a code interpretation requires an official interpretation.

When the Code Interpretation Committee determines that the code language is clear and the question pertains to the application of the code rather than its intent, the committee may provide a response to the code interpretation request instead of issuing an official code interpretation.

A response to a code interpretation request is reviewed and vetted by the Code Interpretation Committee and is provided directly to the requestor by email. These responses explain how the existing code language applies to the circumstances presented but do not establish or modify the intent of the code. Because they address the application of clearly written code rather than interpreting ambiguous language, they are informal in nature, are not approved by the State Fire Marshal as official code interpretations, are not published, and are intended to provide guidance only.