

**CODE APPLICATION NOTICE**

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**CODE SECTION:** Title 24, Part 1, California Administrative Code, Chapter 6

**1.4.5.1 Change in seismic performance category.**

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1.4.5.1.1 – The SPC or NPC for a hospital building may be changed by the Office from the initial determination made per Sections 2.0.1.2.3 or 11.0.1.2.1 upon the following:

1. A seismic evaluation report shall be submitted and approved which shall include either or both of the following:

- 1.1 A structural evaluation report in accordance with Section 1.3.3;

- 1.2 A nonstructural evaluation report in accordance with Section 1.3.4.

*Exception: To change an NPC 1 hospital building to an NPC 2 under this section, the nonstructural evaluation may be limited in scope to the systems and equipment specified in Section 11.2.1.*

2. The building has been modified to comply with the requirements of Chapter 16B, Part 2 of Title 24 for the specified SPC or NPC.

**BACKGROUND:**

This CAN is intended to address nonstructural seismic upgrades from NPC 1 to NPC 2 only. The Office has sole authority for determining if the requirements for changing the Nonstructural Performance Category (NPC) of a hospital building have been satisfied. Hospital facilities were required to submit nonstructural evaluation reports to the Office by January 1, 2001. In lieu of an evaluation, Part 1, Title 24, Section 11.01.2.1 allows the submittal of a statement certifying that the building is designated NPC 1 in conformance with Table 11.1.

Before the Office will consider changing the nonstructural performance category from NPC 1 to NPC 2, plans showing the work required for NPC 2 compliance must already have been submitted to and approved by the office. 100% verified reports must be submitted to the Office to demonstrate that the construction work has been completed.

At the present time, in order to change to a higher NPC, additional nonstructural evaluations must be performed, and a report must be submitted to the Office. (See Sections 11.01.3, 1.4.5.1.1, and 1.3.4 of Part 1, Title 24.)

**INTERPRETATION:**

For nonstructural upgrades from NPC 1 to NPC 2, the Office will accept an engineering report in lieu of the NPC 2 evaluation report required by Section 1.4.5.1.1.

The engineering report shall comply with the following minimum requirements:

1. The report shall be stamped and signed by a California registered structural engineer, certifying compliance with the requirements of NPC 2.
2. The report shall state that the systems and equipment listed in Table 11.1 for NPC 2 compliance either comply with or have been modified to comply with the requirements of Chapter 16B, 1998 California Building Code, Title 24.
3. The report shall state what specific deficiencies have been addressed in the NPC 2 upgrade projects, and provide OSHPD project numbers for these projects.
4. The report shall state that the corrective work required for NPC 2 compliance has been completed under permits issued by OSHPD.
5. If the hospital owner or governing body has already submitted a revised or new NPC 2 evaluation report, and the Office has reviewed and made comments on this report, the engineering report shall include a statement that all comments pertaining to NPC 2 compliance in the OSHPD review have been addressed.

**REASON:**

Buildings upgraded to NPC 2 will remain in use only for a limited period of time. They are required to be either upgraded to NPC 3 or higher or removed from acute care service by 2008, or no later than 2013 with extensions. (In certain circumstances, facilities in areas of low seismic risk may be permitted to continue operating with a rating of NPC 2 until 2030.)

There are a limited number of systems that must be braced and anchored to comply with NPC 2 requirements. The construction projects anchoring and bracing these systems should have already been reviewed and approved by the Office, and construction was required to be complete before January 1, 2002. Considering the time frame these buildings will be in service, and limited scope of work required for NPC 2 compliance, the possibility of an error resulting in a serious negative impact is slight.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

5/23/05

Kurt A. Schaefer

Date