



SUBJECT

Review of Mobile Units Used for Outpatient Hospital Services

PIN: 34

Effective: 3/08/2002

Revised: 3/17/2017



PURPOSE

This Policy Intent Notice (PIN) provides guidelines for reviewing the installation of “mobile units” that are to be used for outpatient clinical services or duplicate hospital services, as described in Health and Safety Code (HSC) §129730. The guidelines identify what elements of the installation OSHPD will review when a mobile unit is located on a hospital campus.

The term “mobile unit,” as used in this PIN, includes “special purpose commercial coach,” as defined in HSC § 18012.5, and “commercial modular,” as defined in HSC §18001.8, if they are to be used to provide medical, diagnostic or treatment services. Such services must be approved as a service of a licensed “health facility,” as defined in HSC §1250. Mobile unit services are not to be used as a primary source for basic hospital service(s), except in response to a natural disaster or other emergency event, pursuant to HSC §1765.165 (a).

A “mobile unit” does not include a modular, relocatable, or transportable unit that is designed to be placed on a foundation when it reaches its destination. When used to provide medical, diagnostic or treatment services these units must comply with code requirements for buildings.

BACKGROUND

Special purpose commercial coaches and commercial modulars are excluded from the California Building Code (CBC) definition of a “building”; therefore, these units are not subject to Title 24, California Building Standards Code requirements and are not under OSHPD jurisdiction.

These mobile units are often used to provide outpatient clinical services or duplicate hospital services and may be located in proximity to a hospital building. The installation of the unit could potentially result in fire and life safety hazards or impede means of egress from the hospital. Although OSHPD has no authority to regulate the mobile unit or its contents, it does have the authority and responsibility to ensure the hospital building is protected from adjacent hazards. OSHPD’s jurisdiction is therefore limited to the installation of a mobile unit and the impact in relation to a hospital building.

POLICY

The Office will review drawings for the installation of a mobile unit to be located on a hospital campus when the unit is to be used to provide outpatient clinical services or duplicate hospital services, only as allowed by HSC §129730.

PROCEDURE

Guidelines for Review of Mobile Unit Installation

1. The project package submitted for OSHPD review will be presented from the hospital building perspective for site utilities, accessible path of travel between the hospital and the mobile unit, opening protection, egress, pedestrian walkways and connecting structures.
2. When a mobile unit is located proximate to a hospital building, the Office will review it to the requirements of the CBC for **buildings on the same lot**.
3. When the mobile unit is linked to the hospital building with a pedestrian walkway, the Office will review to the requirements of the CBC for **pedestrian walkways**.
4. The Office will review **connecting structures** such as walkways or weather protection structures between the mobile unit and the hospital building to the requirements of the CBC on an individual basis.
5. OSHPD will review **utility connections** for mobile units that originate in, pass through, or pass under buildings regulated by OSHPD.
6. OSHPD will not review the mobile unit for conformance with Title 24, California Building Standards Code requirements, including seismic anchorage of the unit and location of the unit as it relates to required side yards.
7. Mobile units shall not obstruct the required means of egress from the hospital building or obstruct fire department access, or access to fire protection equipment including fire hydrants, sprinkler control valves and fire department hose connections.
8. All appropriate approvals must be obtained prior to usage of a mobile unit. Approvals may include Department of Public Health, License and Certification and local fire, planning and zoning authorities. For additional information regarding licensure of mobile units, refer to HSC §1765.101 through §1765.175.

Original signed

3/22/17

Paul Coleman

Date