

WELCOME

Alternative Birthing Clinics (ABC)

Public Meeting

THE MEETING WILL START AT 10:00 A.M.

California Building Standards Code
(Title 24, California Code of Regulations)

May 1, 2025

Who are we? And what do we do?

HCAI TEAM HCAI/OSHPPD/BSU

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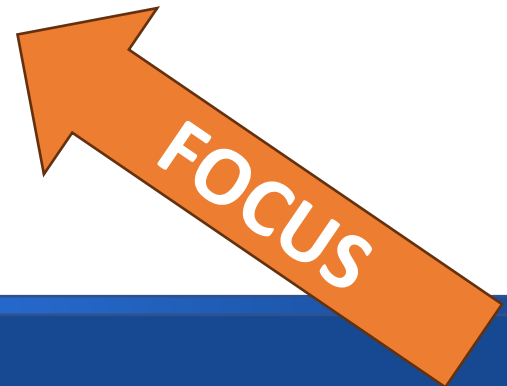
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Who are we? And what do we do?

HCAI - Department of Health Care Access and Information

Office of Statewide Hospital Planning and Development Building Safety – HCAI

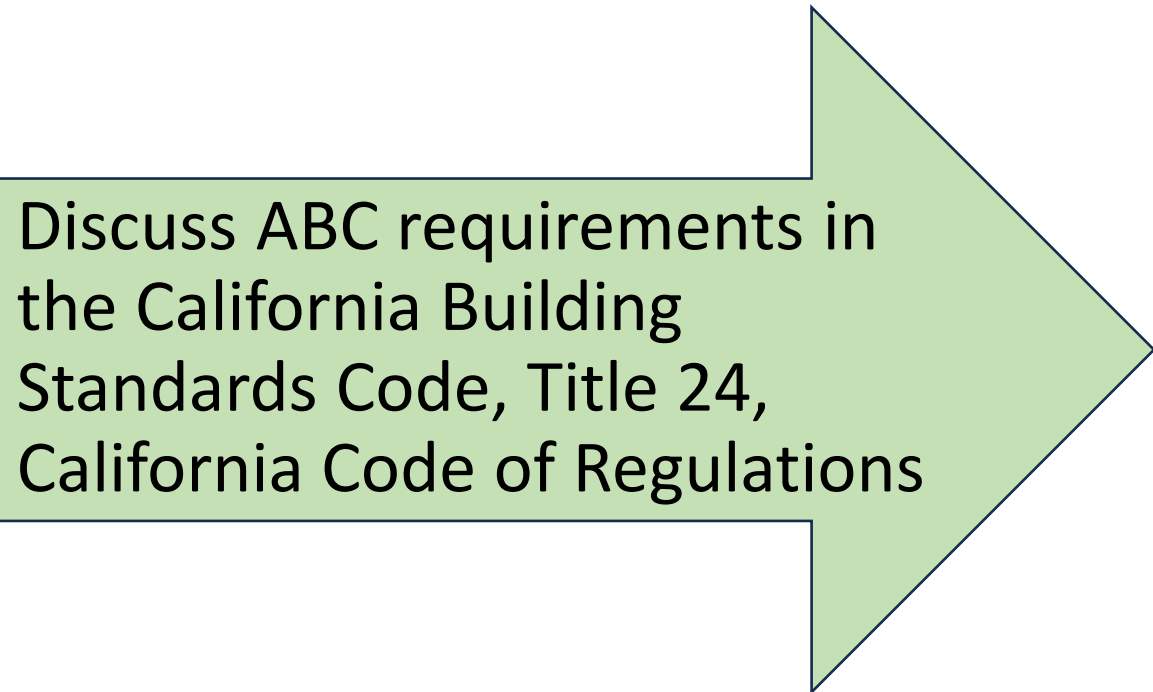
1. Promulgate regulations in Title 24 for Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Acute Psychiatric Hospitals
2. HCAI is the building department for these facilities
3. Promulgate OSHPD 3 CLINIC regulations in Title 24, Chapter 12, Section 1226
4. **HCAI has authority to make or modify regulations (building standards) for health care facilities licensed by CDPH, including Alternative Birthing Clinics.**
5. Coordinate with CDPH (licensing), CPCA, oSFM (Fire and Life Safety) and DSA (Access)



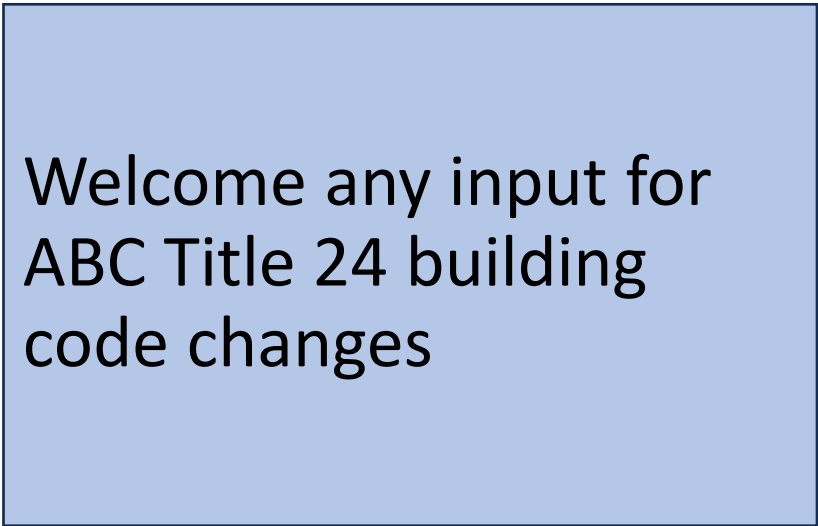
Purpose of the meeting

PURPOSE

Big Picture: Right-size the ABC Title 24 regulations



Discuss ABC requirements in the California Building Standards Code, Title 24, California Code of Regulations



Welcome any input for ABC Title 24 building code changes

Purpose of the meeting

BACKGROUND:

Increasing concerns about access to birth services in California

And rural areas in California

Hospitals close labor and delivery services

- Since 2012, total of 56 hospitals (16% of CA hospitals) removed labor and delivery services

Challenges ABCs face seeking Title 24 compliance and CDPH licensure

Types of birthing centers in CA

1

Birth Centers – Operate with valid professional license and business license

2

Birth Centers – Accredited by The Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers (CABC), to AABC standards. Accreditation is a voluntary process.


3

Alternative Birthing Clinics – Clinics licensed by CDPH and must comply with Title 24 OSHPD 3. ABC building regulations are in the California Building Code, Section 1226.11, and CEC, CMC & CPC.


FOCUS

What is OSHPD 3?

Title 24 contains the minimum building standards (regulations) for the construction and alteration of buildings and structures in CA . Title 24 is comprised of building, fire, electrical, mechanical, plumbing regulations, energy and sustainable, etc.



HCAI/OSHPD amend Title 24 (Section 1226.11 - [OSHPD 3] CLINICS) for ABCs listed in HSC 1204 (b)



CDPH responsible for licensing ABCs and they promulgate Title 22 regulations (points to Title 24 for building standards)

Recap of stakeholder engagement

TWO MEETINGS WITH ABC REPRESENTATIVES:

1/7/2025: Discussed ABC environment, challenges faced building an ABC licensed by CDPH, and Title 24, Title 22 and American Association of Birth Centers, Standards for Birth Centers

- [Birth Center Standards - American Association Of Birth Centers](#)

2/4/2025: Reviewed ABC requirement comparison table and discussed regulations can or cannot be changed.

Developed a Title 24, Title 22 comparison table

Email survey to birthing center owners and result

Survey emailed 31 birth centers; 5 responses

Questions	Responses		
1. Is the birthing center within 30 minutes of a facility with the capacity to manage an obstetrical and neonatal emergency?	# yes	# no	
	5	0	
2. How many birthing rooms are in the birthing center?	2 - 3		
3. On an average, how many births per month occur in the center?	5 – 24 (3 of 5 birth center with an average of 5-8 births)		
4. Is the birthing center licensed by the CDPH? If not, how is the birthing center licensed, accredited or certified (i.e., through city, county, etc.)?	# yes	# no	
	1	4	
5. Does the center intend to pursue licensure from CDPH?	# yes	# no	others
	2	1	1 licensed, 1 closed
6. If you sought licensure from CDPH in the past, what challenges did you face?	Financial burden from building the birth center: i.e. Window, clean-up room, mechanical codes. CPSP, limitation from AABC		

ABC Title 24 Regulations Table

Compare Title 24, Title 22 and AABC: We met with several ABC representatives to better understand ABC needs, challenges getting licensed, and suggestions. We took their comments and edited the OSHPD comment column for today's meeting.

Table includes:

- CBC (California Building Code)
- CMC (California Mechanical Code)
- CPC (California Plumbing Code)
- CEC (California Electrical Code)

HOMework: Feedback

We need feedback May 31.

Send to: RegsUnit@hcai.ca.gov

Use subject line: *ABC public meeting*

ABC meeting materials available:

<https://hcai.ca.gov/facilities/building-safety/pre-cycle-public-meetings/>

HCAI/OSHDPD TIMELINE

- May 1 – ABC public meeting
- June-August – Prioritize and draft ABC code changes
- August – email draft regulations to interested parties
- June-August – Draft and publish ABC guidance documents
- October – Complete 2025 Intervening code changes
- Dec. 2025 – July 2026 – Formal rulemaking process with CBSC
- July 2027 – New regulations effective

ABC guidance document and Checklist

- The **guidance document** will assist design professionals, ABC owners/operators and the local jurisdictions on compliance with the current edition of Title 24.
- The **checklist** will provide a list of the applicable building code sections.
- Ready by June 30, 2025 (tentative)

THANK YOU for your feedback

Send comments to regsunit@hcai.ca.gov