



CODE APPLICATION NOTICE

Health and Safety Code §129851

CAN: 2-1603.3

SUBJECT

Software Used for Design and Analysis

Effective: 08/12/2026



CODE SECTIONS

2025 California Building Code, Part 2 Volume 2
Chapter 16A STRUCTURAL DESIGN
Section 1603A.3 Structural design basis and calculations.

Appendix – 2025 California Building Standards Code, Title 24, California Code of Regulations, code citation(s) related to this Code Application Notice (CAN).

Acronyms and Definitions assist the user in recognizing and identifying various acronyms and terms generally used in this CAN. Please refer to the “[Master Glossary of Acronyms and Definitions – Acronyms and Definitions Used in OSHPD Published Documents](https://hcai.ca.gov/document/master-glossary-of-acronyms-and-definitions/)” which is posted on the HCAI website at <https://hcai.ca.gov/document/master-glossary-of-acronyms-and-definitions/>. Other definitions may also be found in the [California Building Standards Code](#), Title 24, California Code of Regulations.

PURPOSE

When design software is employed, the design professional bears the responsibility of conclusively demonstrating to HCAI reviewers that the software's output fulfills all applicable code requirements or at a minimum, the code intent.

BACKGROUND

Increasingly, projects submitted to HCAI for review are utilizing sophisticated design and analysis software that necessitates direct, hands-on interaction for comprehension. With the rising costs of purchasing and maintaining diverse software, HCAI recognizes the need for alternative review strategies.

This CAN provides the Office's policy on how reviews can be performed where software used in the design and analysis of the project is not available at HCAI.

INTERPRETATION

To verify that design software outputs comply with the California Building Code (CBC) and referenced standards, design teams may provide proof through hand calculations or electronically submitted

spreadsheets. These electronically formulated mathematical computations must be made accessible to HCAI for review and validation.

While HCAI invests in commonly used design software, it's impractical to maintain a plethora of commercially available software utilized in the design industry.

Before submitting a project, it is essential for design professionals to discuss the specific design and analysis software being used with the HCAI review team. During the formal submission process, supporting documentation, such as hand calculations or electronically transmitted spreadsheets, must be provided to validate the software's outputs.

For cases where complex design or analysis software is utilized and is not readily accessible to HCAI, arrangements should be made to loan the software license to the department for the duration of the project's review.

When software is loaned for a project, HCAI will ensure that both the software and its license are removed from their systems upon the completion of the project review.

Original signed	08/12/2026
Chris Tokas, Deputy Director	Date

APPENDIX

2025 California Building Standards Code, Title 24, California Code of Regulations

2025 California Building Code, Part 2 Volume 2

Chapter 16A STRUCTURAL DESIGN

Section 1603A.3 Structural design basis and calculations.

The application for the approval of construction documents that involves structural elements or components shall be accompanied by complete and accurate structural design computations, which shall comply with requirements prescribed by the enforcement agency:

- 1. The computations shall be preceded by a detailed index.*
- 2. The computations including each major subsection shall be prefaced by a statement clearly and concisely outlining the basis for the structural design and indicating the manner in which the structure will resist the vertical loads and lateral forces.*
- 3. The computations shall be sufficiently complete to the extent that calculations for the individual structural members and connections can be readily interpreted.*