



CODE APPLICATION NOTICE

Health and Safety Code §129851

CAN: 2-108

SUBJECT

Temporary / Interim Structures, Tents and Equipment Uses

Effective: 07/15/2013

Revised: 06/03/2024



CODE SECTIONS

2022 California Building Code, Part 2 Volume 1 and 2, Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations

Chapter 1 SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION, DIVISION 1 CALIFORNIA ADMINISTRATION

Section 108 Temporary structures and uses.

Section 111 Certificate of occupancy.

Section 111.1 Change of occupancy.

Section 111.3 Temporary occupancy.

Section 112.1 Connection of service utilities.

Section 112.2 Temporary connection.

Chapter 2 DEFINITIONS

INTERIM EQUIPMENT [OSHPD 1, 2, 4 & 5]

TEMPORARY EQUIPMENT [OSHPD 1, 2, 4 & 5]

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT [OSHPD 1, 2, 4 & 5]

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Chapter 16A STRUCTURAL DESIGN

Section 1617A.1.18 ASCE 7, Section 13.1.4

Chapter 31 SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION

Section 3103 TEMPORARY STRUCTURES

Chapter 33 SAFEGUARDS DURING CONSTRUCTION

Section 3310.2 Maintenance of means of egress.

2022 California Electrical Code, Part 3, Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations

Chapter 5 Special Occupancies, ARTICLE 590 Temporary Installations

Section 590.1 Scope.

Section 590.2 All Wiring Installations.

Section 590.3 Time Constraints.

2022 California Mechanical Code, Part 4, Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations

Chapter 1 ADMINISTRATION, DIVISION II ADMINISTRATION

Section 105.4 Connection to Service Utilities.

2022 California Plumbing Code, Part 5, Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations

Chapter 12 FUEL GAS PIPING

Section 1207.0 Temporary Use of Gas.

Chapter 13 HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND MEDICAL GAS AND MEDICAL VACUUM SYSTEMS

Section 1324.1 Where Required.

Section 1324.2 Breached Systems.

2022 California Fire Code, Part 9, Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations

Chapter 6 BUILDING SERVICES AND SYSTEMS

Section 603.1.2 Healthcare facilities.

Section 603.8 Temporary Wiring.

Section 603.8.1 Attachment to structures.

NFPA 99: Health Care Facilities Code, 2021 Edition

Chapter 5 Gas and Vacuum Systems

Section 5.1.12 Performance Criteria and Testing – Category 1 (Gases, Medical-Surgical Vacuum, and WAGD).

Section 5.1.12.1 General.

Appendix – 2022 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](#)” 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

The purpose of this Code Application Notice (CAN) is to provide clarification of the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Office of Statewide Hospital Planning and Development’s (OSHPD) requirements for Temporary / Interim Structures, Tents and Equipment Uses. For Emergency Work, refer to [PIN 72-Emergency Work Authorization](#).

INTERPRETATION

Administrative

Application

The California Building Standards Code, Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations (Title 24), provides building standards that authorize the building official to issue a permit for the provision and use of temporary occupancies, uses, structures, systems, utilities, and equipment for limited time periods during construction or for other purposes. See: California Building Code (CBC) Section 111.3 and other Title 24 sections listed above.

The Office of Statewide Hospital Planning and Development (OSHPD) shall issue a permit for the use of temporary/interim occupancies, structures, systems, utilities, and equipment during project construction, remodel, repair, or demolition of buildings under its jurisdiction or for temporary conditions from other causes, such as “surge tents” during the flu season, etc.

Temporary and interim construction shall satisfy the requirements of the California Administrative Code (CAC), California Building Code (CBC), California Fire Code (CFC), and California Existing Building Code (CEBC) in Title 24 and this Code Application Notice (CAN 2-108) and CAN 2-102.6.

Preparing Submittal

- Submittal can be prepared by Architect, Mechanical, Electrical, Civil, or Structural engineers as applicable per CAC 7-115. Submittals shall also include certification from a structural engineer and supporting calculations when required.
- Licensed specialty contractor may prepare construction documents in accordance CAC 7-115.

Submittal

OSHPD submittal of the construction documents for review can be any of the following:

- Included with submittal for permanent construction work.
- Separate from permanent construction in addition to primary permitted permanent work documents.
- Added to the primary permitted work through an Amended Construction Document (ACD).

With the exception of emergencies, project documents shall be submitted for review and approval by OSHPD and building permit applications for use of temporary / interim systems, utilities and or equipment shall be made to OSHPD in advance of the anticipated use, allowing adequate time for review.

The OSHPD submittal for temporary / interim equipment shall include plans clearly delineating the following:

- The location and duration of use of the temporary / interim equipment.
- Routing and sizing of utility lines to power or fuel the equipment and identification of the points of connection.
- Routing and sizing of conduit, cabling, piping, and or ducting between the temporary / interim equipment and the existing distribution system.

- Locations, sizes, and construction of any barriers and or means of egress, fencing, or other protective measures for the equipment, piping, conductors, and duct work showing adequate clearances when appropriate.
- Submittals for tents, umbrella structures and other membrane structures shall also include specifications for the proposed materials to be used.
- Detailing of any anchorage and bracing when required.
- Temporary occupancies and uses must be shown on the plans for a related project, or if there is no related project, plans must be submitted for review and approval that clearly show the specific area of temporary occupancy or use, the purpose of the temporary occupancy or use, the time duration for the temporary occupancy or use, and required construction for the temporary occupancy or use.
- The submittal shall also include a Testing, Inspection and Observation program (TIO) indicating related structural, mechanical, plumbing, and/or electrical testing, balancing, inspections, or observations that are required.

Temporary / Interim Structures

Temporary/Interim Structures are structures erected to support healthcare functions such as exit stairs or support structures for utilities and equipment. An OSHPD application for temporary / Interim structure shall be a standard permit application for structure and shall be the same as any construction project.

Temporary/Interim structures shall comply with CBC Section 3103 and Section 108, they shall be designed for all requirements of the California Building Code, including all fire separation distances, means of egress requirements, utility connections, except for use of a lower seismic force appropriate for the duration they are kept in service, but not less than 50 percent of the seismic force for permanent structures.

OSHPD has the responsibility to inspect the anchorage, location and all framing materials, sheathing, roofing, and construction methods of temporary/Interim structures. Different jurisdictions have different requirements relating to the use of temporary structures. It is very common for the local fire department to require a permit for a temporary/interim structure which may also include a fee.

Temporary structures are those that are put in use for a duration of 1 to 180 days. After 180 days, the structure must be removed unless an extension has been requested and granted by OSHPD before the 180-day expiration. Only one extension will be granted as outlined in CAC Section 7-129. Prior to the extension period being expended, the temporary structure must be removed or replaced with permanent structure.

Interim structures must only be in place for the duration it is needed for construction. Interim structures are those used for the duration of a construction project and are removed when the project is completed. Interim structures that house patient care and services shall be periodically inspected and shown in a verified compliance report issued by the Inspector of Record and submitted to OSHPD to be safe and durable for continued use. The interval between inspections for the interim structures shall be noted on the TIO and approved by OSHPD.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) approves the use for patient care of the temporary/interim structures via a program flex request for a specific period of time. When the time period expires, the temporary structures must be removed from the site.

OSHPD reviews and approves the design of the temporary/interim structures via a standard project permit application.

The permit for temporary/interim structure shall be granted solely for the period needed during construction or for the purpose for which it was granted. At the termination of allowed time frame, all temporary/Interim structures are required to be removed prior to the granting of Substantial Compliance or Certificate of Occupancy.

Temporary/Interim structures cannot become permanent buildings used for healthcare at a licensed health facility unless they are shown to meet all requirements of the current California Building Code for their intended occupancies.

Temporary / Interim Equipment

All temporary / Interim equipment must, at a minimum, meet the appropriate code requirements for capacity and performance.

Temporary Equipment

Temporary equipment are those that are put in use for a duration of 1 to 180 days for repairs, replacement or construction. After 180 days, the equipment must be removed unless an extension has been requested and granted by OSHPD before the 180-day expiration. Only one extension will be granted as outlined in CAC Section 7-129.

OSHPD reviews and approves the temporary equipment via a standard project permit application.

The permit for temporary equipment shall be granted solely for the period needed during construction or for the purpose for which it was granted.

Temporary equipment cannot become permanent equipment used for healthcare at a licensed health facility unless they are shown to meet all requirements of the current California Building Code for their intended use and are included in the contract documents submitted to OSHPD for review for the licensed facility. Temporary equipment can become interim equipment if the equipment meets the requirements for interim equipment, where its duration on site is linked to a construction project and the construction documents are revised to indicate the change via an ACD in that construction project.

Temporary Equipment Installations less than 30 days duration:

Seismic design for support, attachments and special seismic certification are not required for temporary installations less than 30 days duration.

Temporary Equipment Installations more than 30 days duration:

For uses 30 days or greater but less than 180 days, seismic design for supports and attachments for temporary equipment shall meet the requirements of Chapter 13; however, the calculated F_p may be

reduced by 50 percent. It is acceptable to use ballasts for seismic bracing supports and attachments and to limit the design criteria to overturning unless directly or indirectly supported by the building structure. Anticipated duration must be specified.

Interim Equipment

Interim equipment must only be in place for the duration it is needed for construction. Interim equipment shall be used for the duration of a construction project and is required to be removed when the project is completed. OSHPD approves the interim equipment via a standard project application permit.

The permit for interim equipment shall be granted solely for the period needed during construction or for the purpose for which it was granted. For interim equipment that is used for serving patients, such as interim air handler units, boilers and generators for emergency power, the interim piping, conductors, and ductwork connections shall be periodically inspected and shown in a verified compliance report issued by the Inspector of Record and submitted to OSHPD to be safe and durable for continued use. The interval between inspections of interim piping, conductors, and ductwork connections shall be noted on the TIO and approved by OSHPD.

Equipment that requires supports and attachments, that are required during construction can be designed for a lower seismic force appropriate for the duration they are kept in service, but not less than 50 percent of the seismic force for permanent structures. Interim structures are permitted to use Exception 1 of Section 1617A.1.4 of the California Building Code. Interim structures shall be removed at the end of the construction project they were erected to support before the project is granted a construction final or certificate of occupancy.

Interim equipment cannot become permanent equipment used for healthcare at a licensed health facility unless they are shown to meet all requirements of the current California Building Code for their intended use.

Closure of Projects with Temporary or Interim Equipment

All temporary and interim equipment must be removed from the site before a Certificate of Occupancy or Construction Final is issued. A Certificate of Substantial Compliance may be granted before the removal of temporary or interim equipment to allow for the commissioning of the permanent equipment.

Where temporary or interim equipment remains in use past their permitted durations, OSHPD will issue a letter of noncompliance that will be copied to CDPH. In some cases, OSHPD field staff may also file an unauthorized construction project. Such projects are listed on the OSHPD website.

General Requirements for both Temporary and Interim Equipment

Temporary and interim equipment must meet all requirements of permanent equipment except as specifically noted below:

Wind design speeds may be reduced as prescribed in ASCE 37-14 or another standard approved by OSHPD.

Special seismic certification of temporary equipment is not required per CBC Section 1705A.14.3.1 Exc. 12.

Piping, conductors, and ductwork shall be secured/supported. Seismic design for supports and attachments of piping, conductors and ductwork is not required. Flex connectors shall be used where connecting from anchored to unanchored.

Placement of equipment on existing structure for temporary use may be mobile (truck mounted) or set on the ground or roof. Prior to placing any temporary equipment on the roof, floor, or other structure, the adequacy of the structure to support the operating weight of the unit shall be confirmed and substantiated by a licensed structural engineer.

Equipment redundancy such as boilers, water heaters or chillers which require n+1 redundancy and require maintenance or repairs, may complete work with the redundant equipment out of service for up to 14 calendar days. The remaining equipment shall maintain normal operating requirements of all connected systems and equipment.

Service access and clearances around equipment shall comply with code including internal access to the equipment when required and provision of a roof guard rail if the access/service area is located within 10 feet of a roof edge.

Noise, steam, odors, hazards, and unsightliness should be minimized when locating temporary equipment in patient-care areas and bedrooms to the extent possible. Equipment shall be guarded against damage and located out of the normal path of vehicles.

Protective barriers shall be provided for pipes, ducts and conductors associated with temporary equipment to protect them from physical damage. If temporary utility/service lines are subject to vehicular traffic they shall be covered with traffic-rated plates or provided with other suitable protection from damage. Temporary fuel gas service shall be protected against damage per CPC Section 1207.0.

Electrical equipment and cables shall be protected from physical damage and guarded with suitable fencing, barriers, or other effective means to limit access only to authorized and qualified personnel per CEC Article 590.

Power installations shall meet the requirements of Article 590 of the CEC. Temporary use of fuel gas may be issued per CMC section 1307 or CPC section 1207. The temporary use of gas is under the condition the piping system conforms to the requirements of the code regarding material, sizing, and safety.

Essential electrical power for temporary mechanical units shall be on the essential electrical power equipment system, when required by CMC Section 321.0.

Flexible power cables (conductors) conforming to CEC Section 590 may be used.

Construction power required for contractor supplied construction trailers, construction lighting, spider (scatter) boxes, temporary welding, temporary lift, etc.

If the construction power is supplied by electrical distribution equipment in an OSHPD building, submittal for review is required. If the construction power is supplied by a non-OSHPD building source, no submittal or review is required.

When required, Construction power for use by a contractor during the build out of a project can be submitted as part of the project construction documents, as a separate standard permit application, or as an amended construction document application.

The permit for construction power shall be considered interim equipment and be granted solely for the period needed during construction or for the purpose for which it was granted. See Interim Equipment for details.

Construction power wiring, associated piping and electrical equipment shall be removed upon completion of construction. Removal of wiring, associated piping, and electrical equipment shall not cause an unsafe condition or code violation.

Air handlers must meet the code requirements for filter efficiency and capacity (ability to maintain proper air balance and air flow). Outdoor air intake must be located the required distance from exhaust outlets, plumbing vents, etc. and maintain height above grade as required by the CMC. Where applicable, automatic shutoff of air handling units for smoke control shall be provided, with connection to the fire alarm system if temporary use is for longer than 30 days. Flexible ductwork is permitted between the temporary unit and the hard duct system.

Flexible ductwork in lengths up to 25 ft. is permitted in construction areas for temporary connections to maintain air balance. See [Remodel CAN 2-102.6, Narrative 15](#).

Chillers located indoors shall comply with all requirements of CMC Chapter 11. If located outdoors, the pressure relief shall be located a minimum 10 feet from windows or outside air intake locations. Flexible piping rated for the pressure and media is permitted between the temporary unit and the rigid piping system.

Medical gas sources used for temporary and interim means for installation and testing shall meet NFPA 99.

Generator and Automatic Transfer Switch:

- The emergency power supply must be sized to provide adequate capacity to meet the demand for the operation of all functions and equipment to be served by each branch, be fully automatic and be identified for emergency use.
- For emergency generators, required on-premises fuel supply:
 - 24 hours full-demand operation in hospitals and correctional treatment centers that provide optional services. See [CEC 700.12\(D\)2](#).
 - 6 hours full-demand operation in health facilities of seven or more beds: correctional treatment centers that provide only basic services, acute psychiatric hospitals, intermediate care facilities. See [CEC 700.12\(D\)2](#).
 - 96 hours full-demand operation Skilled Nursing Facilities via integral fuel tanks, mobile fuel trucks, or other approved means shall be provided. See Health and Safety Code (HSC) §1814.22 and [OSHPD PIN 74](#).
- An installation acceptance test shall be performed on the temporary emergency generator in accordance with NFPA 110, Section 7.13.4.1.4 except test duration may be reduced to 30 minutes.

- A temporary transfer switch (Non-Bypass Isolation Type) may be used as the temporary automatic transfer switch.
- The temporary transfer switch configuration shall match the existing switch configuration (Even if the current code requires multiple units for the branch requirements). See [CEC 517.31\(A\) and \(B\) and 517.42\(A\) and \(B\)](#).
- Temporary generators exhaust outlet shall be located a minimum of 25 feet from outside air intakes, and 10 feet minimum from operable windows and doors. See [CMC, 407.2.1 and 407.2.2](#).
- Task illumination and receptacle specified in 517.33(E) and 517.43(F) are not required at outdoor temporary generator and transfer switch(es) locations.
- Remote alarm annunciation at 24-hour staffed location is required. Remote shutdown is not required.

Tents

Tents are membrane structures made of fabric and may include a canopy. A tent consists of non-permanent, non-structural walls and roof. A tent is not considered a rigid structure. The duration of the use of tents for patient care is approved by CDPH via a program flex. When the time period expires, the tents must be removed from the site. Tents cannot become permanent buildings.

Tents shall comply with CBC Section 108 Temporary Structures and Uses and CBC, Section 3103, also CFC Section 3103 and 3104.

The State Fire Marshal provides requirements for tents, awnings, or other fabric enclosures in the California Building Code (CBC), California Fire Code (CFC) and Title 19 California Code of Regulations (CCR) listed below:

- Section 332, Title 19 CCR requires all tents manufactured for sale, sold, rented, offered for sale or used in California to be made from nonflammable material or material approved by the State Fire Marshal.
- Section 335, Title 19 CCR requires each section of the top and sidewalls of large tents (ten or more occupants) to have the State Fire Marshal label. Small tents (nine or less occupants) may either have the State Fire Marshal label or meet the provisions of the CPAI-84. When approving the permit for use of the tent, local fire authorities will be looking for these labels as well as considering other fire and life safety and building code issues (see below).

Three jurisdictions are responsible for approval of Tents for patient care:(also known as surge tents)

Local Building and Fire Departments

Local authorities have responsibility to inspect the anchorage, location, and configuration of tents.

- When the local building and/or fire department reviews the proposed location for the tent, it will consider many factors. An important aspect is the location of the tent relative to other structures, fire lanes/roads and exits (See CBC Chapter 31), and its contents.

Location of temporary generators and other equipment utilized for the tents shall also be shown. It is always advisable to meet with the fire department well in advance of the time when tents may need to be erected. Accurate site plans are always helpful and, in some cases, required to be submitted to the building and/or local fire department for review and approval prior to erection of the tent.

- Some local building and fire departments may require safety inspections prior to the using the tent after it has been erected and there may be a fee for that inspection. A few fire departments require a fire safety officer to stand-by for the period of time the tent is to be occupied – similar to a fire watch. This may require a fee as well.
- Local fire departments may provide written approval in multiple methods which will be necessary to obtain CDPH approval.
- For more specific information go to <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov> or contact your local fire or building department.

California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

CDPH approves the use of tents for patient care at licensed Health Facilities. CDPH will authorize the use of tents or temporary structures if the Licensed Health Facility has first, obtained written approval from the local fire authority for their use. CDPH will authorize surge tents or temporary structures for use as waiting rooms, to conduct triage and medical screening exams, and provide basic first aid and outpatient treatment that meets applicable rules and regulations. Any other use will require additional CDPH approval. To receive approval for surge tent use, the Licensed Health Facility must contact their California Department of Public Health - Licensing and Certification, District Office, explain the situation, and justify the use of tents. For more information go to: www.cdph.ca.gov. See [AFL18-09](#).

Office of Statewide Hospital Planning and Development (OSHPD)

OSHPD jurisdiction is limited in construction projects that relate to the erection and use of tents. OSHPD has the responsibility and authority to protect the licensed health facility building under OSHPD jurisdiction from adjacent hazards and exposures. Therefore, OSHPD will need to review drawings for the tent, covered walkways from the tent to a structure under OSHPD jurisdiction and any utility hookups that originate in or pass through any OSHPD jurisdiction buildings.

- OSHPD will review the location of the tents relative to buildings in its jurisdiction. The fire resistance and opening protection requirements, means of egress, and access to fire protection equipment will also be considered. Projections between the hospital building OSHPD building and the tent which comply with Section 705.2 of the current CBC are not limited when they are protected with automatic fire sprinklers.
- OSHPD will review utility connections (electricity, heating, air conditioning, etc.) for tents that originate in, pass through, or pass under buildings regulated by OSHPD.
- OSHPD will not review the anchorage of the tent.

If no power/utilities are supplied to the tent from any OSHPD building, an OSHPD Application for Tent Use Only Permit can be submitted via the [eServices portal](#). The Tent Use application contains site plan, specifications, T.I.O. and building permit submittal into one application.

CODE APPLICATION NOTICE (CAN)

If any power/utilities are supplied to the tent by connection to an OSHPD building, a standard Application for New Project and permit is required to be submitted to OSHPD. The applications can be submitted via the [eServices portal](#).

Original signed	06/03/2024
Chris Tokas, Deputy Director	Date

APPENDIX

2022 California Building Standards Code, Title 24, California Code of Regulations

For code citation(s) related to this Code Application Notice (CAN), access is provided to the codes promulgated by OSHPD through the California Building Standards Commission website (<https://www.dgs.ca.gov/en/BSC/Codes>) with active links to each publisher's website for read-only public access versions of the codes.

Part 1, California Administrative Code

Part 2, California Building Code, Volumes 1 and 2

Part 3, California Electrical Code (Note: Accessed through the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), however, requires the creation of a user account to view the [Free Access - NFPA 70: 2022 California Electrical Code - NFPA 70 \(2020 NEC®\)](#))

Part 4, California Mechanical Code

Part 5, California Plumbing Code

Part 6, California Energy Code

Part 9, California Fire Code

Part 12 California Existing Building Code

REVISION HISTORY

06-03-2024 Revisions

Due to significant revisions, the CAN is reissued. The following is a summary of changes.

Updated to refer to the 2022 edition of Title 24 with the July 1, 2024 Supplement.

Code sections and terms are moved to appendices or pointers to online versions.

Only one extension will be granted for a building permit for temporary structures and temporary uses.

Added information from the California Administrative Code on who can prepare and submit construction documents.

Clarified that temporary equipment may become interim equipment in specific circumstances.

Added a section on tents used for temporary purposes.

06-25-2021 Fourth Revision

03-24-2021 Third Revision

02-03-2021 Second Revision

05-05-2014 First Revision

04-09-2013 First Issued