

January 1, 2011

- ◆ 2010 California Administrative Code (Chapters 4, 6, & 8)
- ◆ 2010 California Building Code (CBC)
- ◆ 2010 California Residential Code (CRC)
- ◆ 2010 California Fire Code (CFC)
- ◆ 2010 California Electrical Code (CEC)
- ◆ 2010 California Mechanical Code (CMC)
- ◆ 2010 California Plumbing Code (CPC)
- ◆ 2010 California Historic Building Code (CHBC)
- ◆ 2010 California Existing Building Code
- ◆ 2010 California Reference Standard Code
- ◆ 2008 California Energy Efficiency Standards

Reason for New & Revised Codes

Every three years applicable codes (listed above) are revised and updated to include new construction practices, promote better building planning, and provide for improved fire and life structure safety. Also new codes are adopted such as the California Residential Code and Green Building Standards Code to help implement standards for specific construction practices. Keep in mind that the following list of changes is not all inclusive; the following only includes some of the most substantial changes to the California Codes. Review of the actual code sections will be needed for further clarification of requirements.

- Fire walls, fire barriers, etc shall be labeled in an accessible area at 30' b.c stating "Fire and/or smoke barrier-protect all openings". (CBC 703.6)
- Required fire resistance rating of exterior walls with a fire separation distance of greater than 10' shall be rated for exposure from fire on the inside, less than 10' rated from both sides. (Used to be 5ft; CBC 705.5)
- Revised Chapter 7A for Wild land Urban Interface Construction requirements.
- Added language for Type "I" and "II" handrails. (CBC 1012.3.1 & 1012.3.2)
- Guards shall be provided for roof hatch openings and roof mechanical equipment within 10' of the roof edge. (CBC 1013.5 & 6)
- Attic ventilation revised to have a minimum of 1sq.ft per 300sq.ft of attic area. (CBC 1203.2)
- Class I & II vapor retarders are required on the interior side of framed walls for low-rise residential. (CBC 1405.3 & 1405.3.1)
- Wood siding shall have a minimum clearance of 2" from concrete steps, etc or P.T/natural resistance to decay. (CBC 2304.11.2.6)

California Residential Code (CRC)

- Seismic Design Categories changed to A, B, C, D0, D1, D2, & E. (CRC Fig. R301.2(2))
Santa Cruz County is D₂ or E (Table 301.2.2.1.1, Table R602.10.1.2(1) and (2). Wind speed = 85mph in Santa Cruz County.
- Distance from exterior dwelling wall to property lines reduced to 3' if fire sprinklers are installed. (CRC T-302.1(2))
- Fire sprinklers required to be installed in all new one-and two family dwellings. (CRC 313.2)
- Garage-to-dwelling entry door is no longer required to be fire rated in fire sprinklered dwellings. Self-closing/Self Latching door is required. (CRC R302.5.1)

CRC Continued...

- Natural ventilation is not required if mechanical ventilation system is installed per CRC R303.1 exceptions.
- Natural light is not required when mechanical ventilation is installed per the above and artificial illumination is provided capable of producing 6ftcandles 30" above the floor. (CRC R303.1)
- Bathtub/shower compartments shall have a nonabsorbent surface extending 72" above the floor. (CRC R307.2)
- Required egress door thresholds may be 1.5" in height maximum; other doors may have a threshold of 7.75" regardless of door swing. (CRC R311.3.1)
- At other than required egress doors a landing is not required at an exterior door where there are two or fewer stair risers and the door doesn't swing over the stairway. (CRC 311.3.2)
- Stairway width's may be 31.5" for handrails on one side or 27" with handrails on both sides (between handrails). (CRC R311.7.1)
- Carbon monoxide alarms required in dwellings with fuel-burning appliances or with attached garages; same requirement for additions/alt. Of more than \$1,000. Shall be located outside each sleeping area and on every level. (CRC R315.3)
- Columns in enclosed crawl spaces shall be natural resistance to decay or P.T unless a pier with a minimum clearance to grade of 8" and the earth is covered by an impervious moisture barrier. (CRC R317.1.4)
- Building site address shall be a 4" minimum in height numeral & visible from the street. (CRC R319.1)
- Added requirements for foundation/slab reinforcement in seismic design categories D0, D1, and D2. (CRC R403.1.3)

CRC Continued...

- Minimum foundation concrete compressive strength for structures located in seismic design categories D0, D1, & D2 shall be 3,000psi and reinforcement grade shall be 60k psi. (CRC R404.1.2.3.7.1 & R404.1.2.3.1)
- Sump required in basements extending 24" below floor level. (CRC R405.2.3)
- Under-floor access opening may be 16"x24" when a through-wall access is provided. (CRC R408.4)
- Added conventional framing/bracing for steel construction. (CRC R505, R603, & R804)
- Revised requirements for bracing wall framing. (CRC R602.10)
- The attic access opening shall be 22"x30" minimum (CRC R807.1)

California Electrical Code

- GFCI receptacles required in commercial kitchens, outdoors, & within 6' of sinks. (CEC 210.8)
- Combination type Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCI) shall be installed in all dwelling unit family rooms, living rooms, bedrooms, closets, hallways, and similar rooms/areas. (CEC 210.12)
- Raceways (conduits) installed underground or in wet locations, the interior of the raceway shall be considered a wet location. Insulated conductors shall be listed for wet locations. (CEC 300.5 & 300.9)
- All required 15/20 ampere receptacles listed in section 210.52 for dwelling units shall be listed tamper-resistant receptacles. (CEC 406.11)
- Swimming Pool equipotential bonding requirements revised for construction and number of bonding conductor connections. (CEC 680.26)
- Revised several requirements for Solar Photovoltaic Systems. (CEC 690)

California Plumbing Code

- Potable water supply to swimming pools, spas, etc shall be protected by an approved air gap or backflow preventer. (CPC 603.4.22)
- Plastic pipe material used for water service installed underground shall have an 18awg blue insulated copper tracer wire suitable for direct burial. (CPC 604.8)
- Cannot use an air test on plastic Drainage, Waste & Vent (DWV) piping. (CPC 723)
- Added CPC chapter 16A for Non-Potable Water Reuse Systems.

California Mechanical Code

- Added entire section for equipment on roofs/access to equipment on roofs. (CMC 303.8 & 304)
- Single-wall metal pipe shall not be used as a vent in a dwelling/residential occupancy. (CMC 802.7.4.1)
- Revised clearances for Type 1 hoods depending on construction. (CMC 507.2)
- Added a standards table for equipment/material. (CMC Table 17-1)

California Green Building Standards Code

Santa Cruz County has adopted the mandatory measures, and amended it to include additions of 500 sq. ft. and more

Related Links:

- www.iccsafe.org
- www.bsc.ca.gov
- www.energy.ca.gov
- <http://publicecodes.citation.com/>

If you have any questions or would like more information regarding the new and updated material contact the County of Santa Cruz Building Department at (831)454-2260 or email blinfo@co.santa-cruz.ca.us



SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES & ADDITIONS TO THE NEW 2010 CALIFORNIA CODES

2010 California Codes
Effective January 1, 2011

