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Information Bulletin

Date Issued:		Revision Date:	IB # 08-04
Topic:	Large Family Day Care		
Code Section:	2007 CBC, Sec 445		
Author: Committee	Date:	Approved:	Date:
Sign:		Sign: ON FILE	

Purpose:

This information bulletin has been developed to assist development applicants, architects, and contractors in determining the minimum requirements for a large family day care.

Scope:

This bulletin is intended to ensure compliance with the appropriate requirements for a large family day care which are found in the California Code of Regulations, Title 19, as well as the 2007 California Fire Code (CFC) and 2007 California Building Code (CBC). Plans not conforming to the requirements listed herein will be returned as incomplete.

Contact Information:

For additional information regarding a Large Family Day Care please call (951) 955-4823.

Occupancy Classifications:

Every large-family day care home shall comply with the provisions for Group R-3 occupancies. CBC 445.6

Submittal Requirements:

Prior to requesting a fire safety inspection, dimensioned or scaled site and floor plans shall be submitted to the local Fire Protection Planning office for review and approval. Please submit these drawings at least two weeks prior to requesting an inspection. The plans must include the building address, occupancy classification of large family day care, and the location of smoke detectors, fire alarms, exit doors and gates.

Provide a detailed letter identifying all intended use and operations of the facility. Include room locations for children.

Provide a current copy of the city or county home occupancy business license/permit at the time of requesting a fire safety inspection.

Please be aware that clearance from the RCoFD does not constitute zoning clearance. Contact the community development or planning department of your local jurisdiction for zoning information.

Use this guideline to ensure that your plans have at least the minimum amount of information required to begin a review. It may be necessary to provide additional information beyond what is requested in this guideline depending on the project.

Codes and Standards

1) **Addressing:**

- a) Address numbers shall be posted on the building and shall be visible from the street. Said numbers shall contrast with their background. In no case shall the numbers be less than 4-inches in height. CFC 505.1

2) **Electrical:**

- a) Identified electrical hazards shall be abated. Identified hazardous electrical conditions in permanent wiring shall be brought to the attention of the code official responsible for enforcement of the California Electrical Code. Electrical wiring, devices, appliances and other equipment that is modified or damaged and constitutes an electrical shock or fire hazard shall not be used. CFC 605.5.1

3) **Fire Alarms:**

- a) Every large-family day care home shall be provided with at least one *manual device** at a location approved by the authority having jurisdiction. Such device shall actuate a *fire alarm signal***, which shall be audible throughout the facility at a minimum level of 15-db above ambient noise level. These devices need not be interconnected to any other fire alarm device, have a control panel or be electrically supervised or provided with emergency power. Such device or devices shall be attached to the structure and may be of any type acceptable to the enforcing agent, provided that such devices are distinctive in tone and are audible throughout the structure. CBC 445.5
 1. *The required manual device(s) must be either a conventional manual fire alarm pull box or a device similar in application that is readily identifiable as an alarm initiating device. It must be manually operated, electrically or battery powered, and permanently mounted to the structure. Once initiated, the device shall emit a continuous distinctive audible tone alarm throughout the structure until manually reset. Smoke alarms shall not be used as a substitute for this requirement.
 2. **Fire Alarm Signal defined: A signal initiated by a fire alarm-initiating device such as a manual fire alarm box, automatic fire detector, water flow switch, or other device whose activation is indicative of the presence of a fire or fire signature. CFC 902.1

4) **Smoke Alarms:**

- a) Large-family day care homes shall be equipped with State Fire Marshal approved and listed single-station residential-type smoke alarms. CBC 445.3
- b) Locations: CBC 907.2.10.1.2
 1. On ceilings or walls outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms.
 2. In each room used for sleeping purposes.
 3. In each story within a dwelling unit, including basements but not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics. In dwellings or dwelling units with split levels and without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level provided that the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level.
 4. In enclosed common stairwells of apartment complexes and other multiple-dwelling complexes.

5) Fire Extinguisher:

- a) Large- and small-family day care homes shall be equipped with a portable fire extinguisher having a minimum 2-A 10-BC rating. CBC 445.4
- b) Portable fire extinguishers having a gross weight not exceeding 40-pounds shall be installed so that its top is not more than 5-feet above the floor. Title 19, Sec 567.6
- c) Fire extinguishers shall be serviced on an annual basis. Title 19, Sec 575.1

6) Room Locations:

- a) Rooms used for day care purposes shall not be located above the first story. CBC 1015.7

Exception: Buildings equipped with an automatic sprinkler system throughout and which have at least one of the required exits providing access directly to the exterior. NFPA 13R may be used in large-family day care homes. The sprinkler omissions of NFPA 13R shall not apply unless approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

7) Swinging Garage Doors:

- a) Interior swinging garage doors, if present, shall close from the full-open position and latch automatically. The door closer shall exert enough force to close and latch from any partially opened position. CBC 406.1.4

8) Exiting:

- a) Every story or basement of a large-family day care home shall be provided with two exits which are remotely located from each other. Every required exit shall be of a size to permit the installation of a door not less than 32-inches in clear width and not less than 6-feet, 8-inches in height. A manually operated horizontal sliding door may be used as one of the two required exits. CBC 1015.7
- b) Egress doors shall readily openable from the egress side without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort. CBC 1008.1.8
- c) Exits shall not pass through kitchens, garages, storerooms, or closets and shall not pass through more than one intervening room. CBC 425.8.2

9) Fences and Gates:

- a) Gates serving the means of egress system shall comply with the requirements of this section. Gates used as a component in a means of egress shall conform to the applicable requirements for doors. CBC 1008.2

10) Special Hazards:

- a) Every unenclosed gas-fired water heater or furnace which is within the area used for child care in a large-family day care home shall be protected in such a way as to prevent children from making contact with those appliances. CBC 445.7

Exception: This does not apply to kitchen stoves or ovens.

11) Ignition Sources:

- a) Clearance between ignition sources, such as luminaries, heaters, flame-producing devices and combustible materials shall be maintained in an approved manner. CFC 305.1