



SFFD Administrative Bulletins for 2019 SFFC

Executive Summary

Every 3 years, the International Code Council (ICC) updates their codes. California and San Francisco codes follow the same cycle. This is also the time to review and update our Bureau of Fire Prevention Administrative Bulletins (ABs).

This new code cycle, all 53 ABs were changed throughout to reflect “2019” in their respective titles. This year 5 new additional Administrative Bulletins were added.

The Fire Department is authorized to issue Administrative Bulletins that establish or clarify requirements under the Fire code, provide interpretations of the Fire code, and set policies and procedures of the Bureau of Fire Prevention. These bulletins are posted on the Fire Department’s website.

Administrative Bulletins provide clarification, interpretation, and other information regarding the San Francisco Fire Department enforcement policies and procedures. All material contained in the Administrative Bulletins is published for the benefit of the public to help promote expeditious plan review and applicable Code compliance. Administrative Bulletins are not applicable if they are determined to be less restrictive than California State Building or Fire Code provisions or are in conflict with other regulatory requirements that take precedence.

Per the current San Francisco Fire Code: “When the fire code official determines that it is appropriate to develop or revise an Administrative Bulletin, the Fire Department shall post the proposed new or revised Bulletin on its website for 30 days. The posting shall include instructions for providing written comments on the proposed Bulletin and notice of a public hearing regarding the proposed Bulletin. The fire code official shall conduct a public hearing on the proposed Bulletin to obtain public comment. The hearing shall be held after the 30-day posting period. The Fire Commission shall approve any proposed new or revised Bulletin at a noticed meeting. A Bulletin shall not be effective until approved by the Fire Commission. The fire code official and the Fire Commission may amend the proposed Bulletin during the approval process without re-posting the Bulletin for 30 days.”



The proposed 2019 ABs were posted on the SFFD website on 12-13-19. A public hearing was held on 01-28-20. In response to public comment, a few edits were made to the Administrative Bulletins. The Fire Marshal's Office respectfully presents the final version to the Fire Commission for review and approval. Attached is a table of contents for reference.

The following summarizes proposed changes to selected SFFD Administrative Bulletins. Significant changes are as follows:

AB 2.01 Fire Alarm and Signaling Systems Submittals (new title)

AB 2.05 Fire/Smoke Dampers Submittal Guidelines for New Buildings and Tenant Improvements (new title)

- The codes specify the requirements for Fire/Smoke dampers actuation. Depending of building design, the sequence of operations for those dampers vary greatly. In order to facilitate the testing of these devices, the Fire Department requires the following information to be submitted on both the mechanical and fire alarm plans. Buildings with a Smoke Control System or Smoke Management System shall comply with applicable Building and Fire Department Administrative Bulletins for Smoke Control Systems.
- The new title includes "new buildings" as well.
- Added Figure 1 – Example Fire /Smoke Damper Information Matrix. The intent is that designers follow this example going forward. Greatly assists with plan review and field inspections.

AB 2.17 Submittal Guidelines for Cannabis and Plant Cultivation Facilities (new AB)

AB 2.18 Submittal Guidelines for Cannabis and Plant Extraction Facilities (new AB)

- The purpose of these 2 new ABs is provide consistent methods to assist designers and engineers in the permit submittal requirements for all cannabis/plant cultivation and extraction facilities. Including detailing when SFFD's operational permits are needed.
- The content of these ABs are currently published as SFFD Informational Bulletins on our web site. Once approved, we will remove the info bulletins.

AB 3.05 Fire Alarm High Rise Relocation Policy

- Updated the example of evacuation/relocation matrix (color coded)



AB 3.08 Sleeping Area Fire Alarm Requirements (new AB)

- The purpose of this new AB is to clarify requirements to satisfy the 2016 CCSF Ordinance: “Fire Safety Requirements for Existing Buildings”. Specifically, with regards to audible fire alarm appliances for residential sleeping areas.

AB 4.09 Removal of Class II Standpipe Hose Cabinets

- Added step by step requirements and process for requesting hose cabinet removal.

AB 4.19 Manual Wet Standpipe Sizing (new title)

AB 4.20 Design of Fire Pump Suction Piping, Fire Pump Location, and Water Storage Tanks (new title)

AB 4.24 Fire Department Connections Requirements

- Added notes regarding restrictions on locations of FDCs. These conditions are already being enforced by our department, but were not published.

AB 4.27 Listed Flexible Sprinkler Hose Fittings

- Added clarification to include work done on/in EXISTING ceilings.

AB 5.08 Fire Service Access Elevators (FSAE) and Occupant Evacuation Elevators (OEE) (new title)

- The purpose of this AB is to provide guidance for safeguards and fire life safety features for specialized elevators in high rise buildings. The FSAEs will provide firefighters with safe means for reaching incidents on all floors. The OEEs will provide safe means for occupants to self-evacuate from tall buildings (420 feet) in addition to using the stairs.

AB 5.14 Removal of Fire Smoke Dampers from HVAC Penetrations of Fire Resistance Rated Corridors (new AB)

- The intent is to detail requirements for the omission of fire-smoke dampers from HVAC penetrations in corridor walls that are required to be fire-resistance rated. This new AB documents requirements that have already been enforced in San Francisco via pre-application meetings and equivalencies on a case-by-case basis.



AB 5.15 Use of Passive Methods for Required Smoke Control Systems (new AB)

- The purpose of this AB is to outline restrictions on the use of the “passive” methods of smoke control. The SFBC and SFFC do not specifically address the “passive” method, and this new AB would provide guidance and place restrictions on how and where this method may be applied. These requirements do not conflict with those in SFDBI AB 047.

2019

SECTION 1- ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETINS

1.01 **Scope**

SECTION 2- PERMIT APPLICATION SUBMITTAL

- 2.01 **Fire Alarm and Signaling Submittals**
- 2.02 **Submittal Requirements for Kitchen Hood and Duct Extinguishing Systems**
- 2.03 **Submittal Requirements for Clean Agent Fire Suppression Systems**
- 2.04 **Fire Sprinkler Submittals**
- 2.05 **Fire/Smoke Damper Submittal Guidelines for New Buildings and Tenant Improvements**
- 2.06 **Submittal Requirements for Cellular Antenna Sites**
- 2.07 **Permit Application Checklist for Diesel Generators, Diesel Fire Pumps, and Fuel Tanks Serving Generators and Fire Pumps**
- 2.08 **Retroactive Sprinkler Installation for High-Rise Buildings Submittal; Umbrella Permit**
- 2.09 **Underground Pipe Detail Plan and Design Criteria Submittal for Installation of Underground Piping for Fire Sprinkler Service**
- 2.10 **RESERVED**
- 2.11 **Submittal Guidelines for Emergency Evacuation Signs**
- 2.12 **Flame Effect Performance Application Requirements**
- 2.13 **Submittal Requirements for Temporary Tents and Membrane Structures**
- 2.14 **Submittal Guidelines and Requirements for Fire Permit Applications**
- 2.15 **RESERVED**
- 2.16 **Submittal Guidelines for Fire Department Access and Fire Flow Approval**
- 2.17 **Submittal Guidelines for Cannabis and Plant Cultivation Facilities**
- 2.18 **Submittal Guidelines for Cannabis and Plant Extraction Facilities**



SECTION 3- FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

- 3.01 LED Annunciation Panels (High-Rise and Low-Rise Buildings)
- 3.02 Fire Alarm Annunciation
- 3.03 Fire Alarm Certification
- 3.04 *RESERVED*
- 3.05 New and Replacement Fire Alarm Systems--High-Rise Evacuation/Relocation Policy
- 3.06 *RESERVED*
- 3.07 *RESERVED*
- 3.08 Sleeping Area Fire Alarm Requirements

SECTION 4- SPRINKLER AND STANDPIPE SYSTEMS

- 4.01 *RESERVED*
- 4.02 *RESERVED*
- 4.03 Acceptance Testing of New High-Rise Sprinkler and Standpipe Systems
- 4.04 Color Coding of Existing Standpipes
- 4.05 Protection of Standpipe Inlets
- 4.06 Design Criteria for Fire Department Connections and Standpipe Outlet Valves
- 4.07 *RESERVED*
- 4.08 *RESERVED*
- 4.09 Removal of Class II Standpipe Hose Cabinets in Sprinkler Retrofitted Buildings
- 4.10 Testing of Fixed Extinguishing Systems (Sprinkler & Standpipe Systems)
- 4.11 Sprinkler System Water Flow Alarms and Monitoring
- 4.12 Temporary Standpipes in Buildings Under Construction
- 4.13 Sprinkler & Standpipe Flow Rates and Required Pressures
- 4.14 *RESERVED*
- 4.15 Attachments and Anchors Acceptable for Hanging and Sway Bracing of Sprinkler Pipe
- 4.16 Sprinkler Systems in Existing Live/Work Occupancies
- 4.17 Pre-Action Sprinkler System Supplied by Wet Pipe Sprinkler Systems
- 4.18 Sprinkler and Standpipe Signs
- 4.19 Manual Wet Standpipe Sizing
- 4.20 Design of Fire Pump Suction Piping, Fire Pump Location, and Water Storage Tanks
- 4.21 Single, Double & Non- Interlock Pre-Action Systems
- 4.22 Design of Fire Pump Wiring Methods
- 4.23 Combination Fire Services
- 4.24 Fire Department Connections (FDC) Requirements
- 4.25 Car Stackers/Lift Systems
- 4.26 Labels for Sprinkler System Control Valves
- 4.27 Listed Flexible Sprinkler Hose Fittings
- 4.28 Fire Sprinkler System Coverage Requirements for Balconies and Terraces



SECTION 5- MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATIONS

5.01 *RESERVED*

5.02 *RESERVED*

5.03 *RESERVED*

5.04 *RESERVED*

5.05 Signage for Buildings with Wood or Lightweight Steel Truss, or Composite Wood Joist (TJI) Floor/Roof Construction

5.06 Requirements for SFFD Approval of Temporary Permits of Occupancy for New or Change of Use High-Rise Buildings

5.07 Air Replenishment Systems

5.08 Fire Service Access Elevators (FSAE) and Occupant Evacuation Elevators (OEE)

5.09 Lockbox Program – Guideline for New Exterior and Replacement Lockboxes

5.10 Safety Requirements for Regulated Activities at Outdoor Food & Street Fairs

5.11 *RESERVED*

5.12 *RESERVED*

5.13 *RESERVED*

5.14 Removal of Fire-Smoke Dampers from HVAC Penetrations of Fire-Resistance Rated Corridors

5.15 Use of Passive Method for Required Smoke Control Systems