

CALIFORNIA CODES
ESSENTIAL SERVICES BUILDING ACT
Extract from the Health and Safety Code Chapter 2

16000. Citation of Chapter

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the Essential Services Buildings Seismic Safety Act of 1986.

16001. Intent of Legislature

It is the intent of the Legislature that essential services buildings, which shall be capable of providing essential services to the public after a disaster, shall be designed and constructed to minimize fire hazards and to resist, insofar as practical, the forces generated by earthquakes, gravity, and winds. It is also the intent of the Legislature that the structural systems and details set forth in working drawings and specifications be carefully reviewed by the responsible enforcement agencies using qualified personnel, and that the construction process be carefully and completely inspected. In order to accomplish these purposes, the Legislature intends to provide for the establishment of building standards for earthquake, gravity, fire, and wind resistance based upon current knowledge, and intends that procedures for the design and construction of essential services buildings be subjected to qualified design review and construction inspection.

It is further the intent of the Legislature that the nonstructural components vital to the operation of essential services buildings shall also be able to resist, insofar as practical, the forces generated by earthquakes, gravity, fire, and winds. The Legislature recognizes that certain nonstructural components housed in essential services buildings, including, but not limited to, communications systems, main transformers and switching equipment, and emergency backup systems, are essential to facility operations and that these nonstructural components should be given adequate consideration during the design and construction process to assure, insofar as practical, continued operation of the building after a disaster.

16002. Definitions to Govern Construction

Unless the context otherwise requires, the definitions in this article govern the construction of this chapter.

16003. "Architect"

"Architect" means a person who is certified under Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 5500) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code.

16004. "Civil Engineer"

"Civil Engineer" means a person who is registered as a civil engineer under Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code.

16005. "Construction or Alteration"

"Construction or alteration" includes any construction of, addition to, reconstruction of, or alteration to any essential services building.

16006. "Enforcement Agency"

"Enforcement agency" means the agency of a city, city and county, or county responsible for building safety within its jurisdiction. The office of the State Architect is the enforcement agency for state-owned facilities or facilities leased by the state.

16007. "Essential Services Building"

"Essential services building" means any building, including buildings designed and constructed, for public agencies used, or designed to be used, or any building a portion of which is used or designed to be used, as a fire station, police station, emergency operations center, California Highway Patrol office, sheriff's office, or emergency communication dispatch center.

16008. "Structural Engineer"

"Structural engineer" means a person who is authorized to use the title structural engineer under Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code.

16009. Review of Design and Construction

The appropriate enforcement agency which meets the requirements of Sections 16017 and 16018 shall review the design and inspect the construction of essential services buildings or the reconstruction, alteration, or addition to any essential services building to the extent it deems necessary to ensure that:

- (1) When the enforcement agency is a local agency, drawings and specifications comply with the locally adopted editions of the model codes, as defined in

Section 18916, the administrative regulations contained in Part 1 (commencing with Section 1-101) of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, and the regulations contained in Part 2 (commencing with Section 101), except for Chapters 23 to 30, inclusive, and Chapter 47 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations.

- (2) When the enforcement agency is the Office of the State Architect, that drawings and specifications comply with all parts of the State Building Standards Code, as contained in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, as adopted by that agency.
- (3) For the protection of life and property that the work of construction has been performed in accordance with the approved drawings and specifications and this chapter.

16010. Exempt Buildings

Essential services buildings of one-story Type V and Type II N construction that are 2,000 square feet or less in floor area are exempt from the provisions of this chapter.

16011. Submission of Designs to Agency; Approval stamp

Unless a contract for the construction or alteration of an essential services building is entered into prior to July 1, 1986, before adopting any drawings or specifications for the essential services building, the governing board, authority, owner, corporation, or other agency proposing to construct any essential services building shall submit the design calculations, drawings, and specifications of the essential services buildings to the appropriate enforcement agency. The enforcement agency shall stamp the drawings and specifications if the construction or alteration is approved by the enforcement agency. Included with the stamp shall be the signature of the qualified person referred to in Section 16018 or Section 16019.

16012. Materials to Accompany Application for Approval

In each case, the application for approval of the drawings and specifications for essential services buildings shall be accompanied by comprehensive and complete drawings, design calculations, and specifications, and required fees, all of which shall comply with the requirements prescribed by the enforcement agency. This review shall not preclude incremental submission and approval of drawings and specifications.

16013. Duties of Agency

The enforcement agency shall approve or reject all drawings and specifications for the construction or the alteration of all essential services buildings, and in doing so, shall review the design calculations, drawings, and specifications to ensure compliance with the requirements of this chapter. A record shall be kept by the enforcement agency indicating that design calculations, drawings, and specifications have been reviewed and conform with:

- (1) When the enforcement agency is a local agency, the locally adopted editions of the model codes, as defined in Section 18916, the administrative regulations contained in Part 1 (commencing with Section 1-101) of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, and the regulations contained in Part 2 (commencing with Section 101), except for Chapters 23 to 30, inclusive, and Chapter 47 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations.
- (2) When the enforcement agency is the Office of the State Architect, all parts of the State Building Standards Code, as contained in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations and adopted by that agency.

16014. Assessment of Geological Conditions

- (a) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (b), drawings and specifications submitted pursuant to this chapter for construction, reconstruction, remodeling, additions, or alterations which affect structural elements of structures in existence on January 1, 1986, shall be based upon an assessment of the geological conditions of the site and the potential for earthquake damage, relying upon geologic and engineering investigations and studies by personnel who are competent to report on geologic conditions and their potential for causing earthquake damage. One-story Type V and Type II N construction of 4,000 square feet or less shall be exempt from this section, unless the project is within a special studies zone established pursuant to Section 2622 of the Public Resources Code.