

## CHAPTER 5

# PRESCRIPTIVE COMPLIANCE METHOD

---

### User note:

**About this chapter:** Chapter 5 provides details for the prescriptive compliance method—one of the three main options of compliance available in this code for buildings and structures undergoing alteration, addition or change of occupancy.

---

### SECTION 501 GENERAL

**501.1 Scope.** The provisions of this chapter shall control the alteration, addition and change of occupancy or relocation of existing buildings and structures, *[BSC]* including state-regulated structures in accordance with Section 501.1.2. In addition to the requirements of the CEBC, existing buildings and structures shall comply with the applicable regulations of Chapters 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 88, 89, 91, 93, 95 and 97 of the *Los Angeles Building Code (LABC)*, Appendix Chapter A1 of the CEBC, and the voluntary earthquake hazard reduction standards of Chapters 92, 94 and 96 of the LABC.

*[HCD 1]* In addition to the requirements in this chapter, maintenance, alteration, repair, addition, or change of occupancy to existing buildings and accessory structures under the authority of the Department of Housing and Community Development, as provided in Section 1.8.2.1.1, shall comply with California Code of Regulations, Title 25, Division 1, Chapter 1, Subchapter 1.

#### Exceptions:

1. Existing bleachers, grandstands and folding and telescopic seating shall comply with ICC 300.
2. *[HCD 2]* For relocated or moved buildings and maintenance, alteration, repair, addition, or change of occupancy to existing buildings and accessory structures in mobilehome parks or special occupancy parks as provided in Section 1.8.2.1.3. See California Code of Regulations, Title 25, Division 1, Chapters 2 and 2.2.
3. *[HCD 1]* Limited-density owner-built rural dwellings.

**501.1.1 Compliance with other methods.** Alterations, additions and changes of occupancy to existing buildings and structures shall comply with the provisions of this chapter or with one of the methods provided in Section 301.3.

**501.1.2 Existing state-owned structures.** *[BSC]* The provisions of Sections 317 through 322 establish minimum standards for earthquake evaluation and design for retrofit of existing state-owned structures, including buildings owned by the University of California, the California State University and the Judicial Council.

*The provisions of Sections 317 through 322 may be adopted by a local jurisdiction for earthquake evaluation and design for retrofit of existing buildings.*

**501.2 Fire-resistance ratings.** Where approved by the code official, in buildings where an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2 of the *California Building Code* has been added, and the building is now sprinklered throughout, the required fire-resistance ratings of building elements and materials shall be permitted to meet the requirements of the current building code. The building is required to meet the other applicable requirements of the *California Building Code*.

Plans, investigation and evaluation reports, and other data shall be submitted indicating which building elements and materials the applicant is requesting the code official to review and approve for determination of applying the current building code fire-resistance ratings. Any special construction features, including fire-resistance-rated assemblies and smoke-resistive assemblies, conditions of occupancy, means of egress conditions, fire code deficiencies, approved modifications or approved alternative materials, design and methods of construction, and equipment applying to the building that impact required fire-resistance ratings shall be identified in the evaluation reports submitted.

**501.3 Existing Group R occupancies.** *[SFM]* See the *California Residential Code* for existing Group R-3 occupancies or Chapter 46 of the *California Fire Code* for all other existing Group R occupancies.

### SECTION 502 ADDITIONS

**502.1 General.** *[BSC & HCD]* Additions to any building or structure shall comply with the requirements of the *California Building Code* or *California Residential Code*, as applicable, for new construction. Alterations to the existing building or structure shall be made to ensure that the existing building or structure together with the addition are not less complying with the provisions of the *California Building Code* than the existing building or structure was prior to the addition. An existing building together with its additions shall comply with the height and area provisions of Chapter 5 of the *California Building Code*, or the height provisions of Chapter 3 of the *California Residential Code*, as applicable.

**Exception:** *[BSC]* For state-owned buildings, including those owned by the University of California and the Cali-

