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DEERING'S CALIFORNIA CODES ANNOTATED
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7, AND 8, AND URGENCY LEGISLATION THROUGH CH 17 OF THE 2010 REGULAR SESSION

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE
Division 13. Housing
Part 1.5. Regulation of Buildings used for Human Habitation
Chapter 2. Rules and Regulations

GO TO CALIFORNIA CODES ARCHIVE DIRECTORY

Cal Health & Saf Code § 17920.3 (2009)

§ 17920.3. Substandard buildings

Any building or portion thereof including any dwelling unit, guestroom or suite of rooms, or the premises on which the same is located, in which there exists any of the following listed conditions to an extent that endangers the life, limb, health, property, safety, or welfare of the public or the occupants thereof shall be deemed and hereby is declared to be a substandard building:

- (a) Inadequate sanitation shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - (1) Lack of, or improper water closet, lavatory, or bathtub or shower in a dwelling unit.
 - (2) Lack of, or improper water closets, lavatories, and bathtubs or showers per number of guests in a hotel.
 - (3) Lack of, or improper kitchen sink.
 - (4) Lack of hot and cold running water to plumbing fixtures in a hotel.
 - (5) Lack of hot and cold running water to plumbing fixtures in a dwelling unit.
 - (6) Lack of adequate heating.
 - (7) Lack of, or improper operation of required ventilating equipment.
 - (8) Lack of minimum amounts of natural light and ventilation required by this code.
 - (9) Room and space dimensions less than required by this code.

- (10) Lack of required electrical lighting.
 - (11) Dampness of habitable rooms.
 - (12) Infestation of insects, vermin, or rodents as determined by the health officer.
 - (13) General dilapidation or improper maintenance.
 - (14) Lack of connection to required sewage disposal system.
 - (15) Lack of adequate garbage and rubbish storage and removal facilities as determined by the health officer.
- (b) Structural hazards shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
- (1) Deteriorated or inadequate foundations.
 - (2) Defective or deteriorated flooring or floor supports.
 - (3) Flooring or floor supports of insufficient size to carry imposed loads with safety.
 - (4) Members of walls, partitions, or other vertical supports that split, lean, list, or buckle due to defective material or deterioration.
 - (5) Members of walls, partitions, or other vertical supports that are of insufficient size to carry imposed loads with safety.
 - (6) Members of ceilings, roofs, ceilings and roof supports, or other horizontal members which sag, split, or buckle due to defective material or deterioration.
 - (7) Members of ceiling, roofs, ceiling and roof supports, or other horizontal members that are of insufficient size to carry imposed loads with safety.
 - (8) Fireplaces or chimneys which list, bulge, or settle due to defective material or deterioration.
 - (9) Fireplaces or chimneys which are of insufficient size or strength to carry imposed loads with safety.
- (c) Any nuisance.
- (d) All wiring, except that which conformed with all applicable laws in effect at the time of installation if it is currently in good and safe condition and working properly.
- (e) All plumbing, except plumbing that conformed with all applicable laws in effect at the time of installation and has been maintained in good condition, or that may not have conformed with all applicable laws in effect at the time of installation but is currently in good and safe condition and working properly, and that is free of cross connections and siphonage between fixtures.
- (f) All mechanical equipment, including vents, except equipment that conformed with all applicable laws in effect at the time of installation and that has been maintained in good and safe condition, or that may not have conformed with all applicable laws in effect at the time of installation but is currently in good and safe condition and working properly.
- (g) Faulty weather protection, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
- (1) Deteriorated, crumbling, or loose plaster.

(2) Deteriorated or ineffective waterproofing of exterior walls, roof, foundations, or floors, including broken windows or doors.

(3) Defective or lack of weather protection for exterior wall coverings, including lack of paint, or weathering due to lack of paint or other approved protective covering.

(4) Broken, rotted, split, or buckled exterior wall coverings or roof coverings.

(h) Any building or portion thereof, device, apparatus, equipment, combustible waste, or vegetation that, in the opinion of the chief of the fire department or his deputy, is in such a condition as to cause a fire or explosion or provide a ready fuel to augment the spread and intensity of fire or explosion arising from any cause.

(i) All materials of construction, except those which are specifically allowed or approved by this code, and which have been adequately maintained in good and safe condition.

(j) Those premises on which an accumulation of weeds, vegetation, junk, dead organic matter, debris, garbage, offal, rodent harborages, stagnant water, combustible materials, and similar materials or conditions constitute fire, health, or safety hazards.

(k) Any building or portion thereof that is determined to be an unsafe building due to inadequate maintenance, in accordance with the latest edition of the Uniform Building Code.

(l) All buildings or portions thereof not provided with adequate exit facilities as required by this code, except those buildings or portions thereof whose exit facilities conformed with all applicable laws at the time of their construction and that have been adequately maintained and increased in relation to any increase in occupant load, alteration or addition, or any change in occupancy.

When an unsafe condition exists through lack of, or improper location of, exits, additional exits may be required to be installed.

(m) All buildings or portions thereof that are not provided with the fire-resistive construction or fire-extinguishing systems or equipment required by this code, except those buildings or portions thereof that conformed with all applicable laws at the time of their construction and whose fire-resistive integrity and fire-extinguishing systems or equipment have been adequately maintained and improved in relation to any increase in occupant load, alteration or addition, or any change in occupancy.

(n) All buildings or portions thereof occupied for living, sleeping, cooking, or dining purposes that were not designed or intended to be used for those occupancies.

(o) Inadequate structural resistance to horizontal forces.

"Substandard building" includes a building not in compliance with Section 13143.2.

However, a condition that would require displacement of sound walls or ceilings to meet height, length, or width requirements for ceilings, rooms, and dwelling units shall not by itself be considered sufficient existence of dangerous conditions making a building a substandard building, unless the building was constructed, altered, or converted in violation of those requirements in effect at the time of construction, alteration, or conversion.

HISTORY:

Added Stats 1979 ch 434 § 2. Amended Stats 1982 ch 1545 § 1; Stats 2000 ch 471 § 4 (AB 2008).

NOTES:

Amendments:**1982 Amendment:**

Substituted "rodent" for "rat" in subd (j).

2000 Amendment:

(1) Generally substituted "that" for "which", (2) substituted "plumbing that conformed" for "that which conformed" in subd (e); (3) substituted "equipment that conformed" for "that which conformed" in subd (f); (3) substituted "those" for "such" in subd (n); (4) substituted "Section 13143.2" for "Section 17920.7" in the second paragraph of the section; and (5) substituted "those" for "such" near the end of the third paragraph of the section.

Cross References:

Conditions of probation for conviction of maintenance of substandard building: *Pen C § 1203.1i*.

Collateral References:

Cal. Forms Pleading & Practice (Matthew Bender(R)) ch 297 "Hotels and Motels."

Cal. Forms Pleading & Practice (Matthew Bender(R)) ch 333 "Landlord And Tenant: Eviction Actions".

Cal. Points & Authorities (Matthew Bender(R)) ch 236 "Unlawful Detainer," § 236.61.

Cal. Torts (Matthew Bender(R)), § 16.05.

12 Witkin Summary (10th ed) Real Property §§ 620, 621.

Cal. Legal Forms, (Matthew Bender) §§ 30B.40[2], 34B.26[2][a], 34B.26[2][c][i], 34B.112, 34B.283[2].

Judicial Council of California Civil Jury Instructions, *CACI No. 4320* (Matthew Bender).

Law Review Articles:

Paradigms, Pigeonholes, and Precedent: Reflections on Regulatory Control of Residential Construction. 23 Whittier LR 3.

Hierarchy Notes:

Div. 13, Pt. 1.5 Note

Div. 13, Pt. 1.5, Ch. 2 Note