



# HOSPITAL SEISMIC SAFETY

Office of Statewide Health Planning & Development

Issue 10 | Fall 2012

## SB 90 Filing Deadline Extended To September 30, 2012

Signed by Governor Brown on April 18, 2011 Senate Bill 90 (SB 90) (Steinberg) authorizes the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) to provide hospitals with an extension on an existing seismic safety deadline provided certain requirements are met.

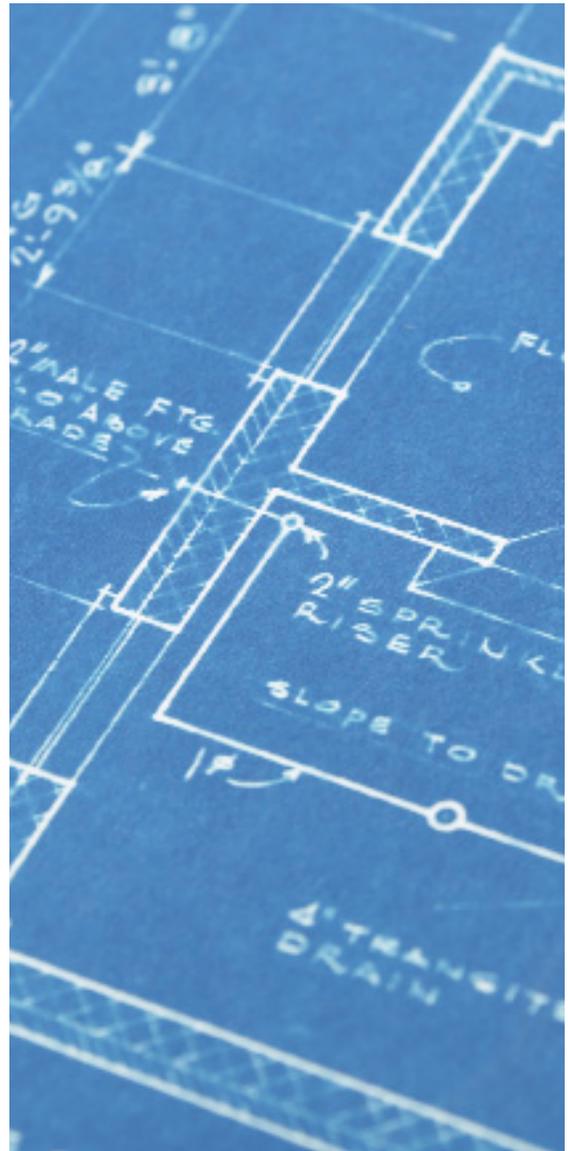
Any hospital with a SPC-1 building (those in most danger of collapse in an earthquake) may voluntarily apply for a SB 90 extension, regardless of current status of compliance. All applicants must comply with the criteria in SB 90, including submittal of its SPC-1 building(s) for HAZUS assessment, if not already assessed.

Under the bill's provisions, OSHPD has the authority to grant an extension of up to seven years for a hospital with a SPC-1 building to retrofit, replace, or remove acute-care services from those buildings. The length of the extension is determined by OSHPD and is not to exceed the time necessary to reasonably complete the construction project. An extension does not change the 2030 deadline and any extension or extension adjustment cannot exceed the January 1, 2020 deadline.

OSHPD would consider requests for extensions on a case-by-case basis based on the following criteria: (1) structural integrity of the building, (2) community access to care if the hospital building were to close, and (3) financial capacity of the hospital to complete the construction project. SB 90 Seismic Extensions are granted on a single building basis and buildings must be in the SPC-1 classification. Facilities with multiple SPC-1 buildings applying for an extension must apply separately for each building. A non-refundable application fee of \$250 is required for each application.

Hospitals not applying for and receiving an extension under SB 90 are still subject to the existing 2013, 2015, 2018, or 2020 deadlines in the law depending on which extension, if any, the hospital has previously received.

All hospitals denied an extension by OSHPD can appeal the decision to the Hospital Building Safety Board.



California state law requires hospitals to evaluate their facilities, develop plans to meet seismic standards and ensure that their buildings are seismically sound.

This bulletin shares the latest news on OSHPD's partnership with the state's 462 acute care hospitals working to meet seismic safety deadlines. Also included are recent items that may be of interest to those involved in hospital construction, planning and design.

**To contact OSHPD about this bulletin, call (916) 326-3606.**

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# HOSPITAL SEISMIC SAFETY

## SB 499 Reports Due Soon

Senate Bill 499 (SB 499) requires all California acute care hospitals with remaining SPC-1 buildings (those in most danger of collapsing in an earthquake or other natural disaster) to report their compliance status to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) by November 1, 2012 and to update this information annually.

SB 499 requires hospitals to indicate whether their buildings will be retrofitted, replaced or removed as a way to mitigate their SPC-1 status, along with any other applicable extension for which the hospital owner has been approved. Additionally, hospitals must report the services provided by their acute care buildings, patient day counts and inpatient bed counts for all buildings. Construction start and end dates for replacement buildings along with the projected date the building will be removed from service and final configurations for all hospital buildings on their campus and how they will comply with SPC-5/NPC-4 or -5 requirements are the final components required under SB 499.

While SB 499 required hospitals to submit reports by November 1, 2012, the law does not preclude the hospitals from making subsequent amendments to the reports. Therefore, the summary of the data is preliminary and subject to change as some reports are amended by the hospitals.

In order to facilitate this process, to ensure consistency in the reporting approach, information provided and results derived, OSHPD has revised its 2012 SB 499 online report. Respondents can submit their information through the Facili-

ties Development Division's (FDD) new Accela System as the database for Building, Project and Facility data. In addition Revised Building Resolution Definitions – Retrofit, Remove, Replace and Rebuild are now available. New CAN 1-6-1.4.5.1.4 on the OSHPD website at <http://oshpd.ca.gov/FDD/Regulations/CANs/2010/1-6-1.4.5.1.4.pdf> has the details regarding how to remove Acute Care Services from a SPC-1 building.

OSHPD continues ongoing outreach to individual hospitals with remaining SPC-1 buildings through reminder letters, offers of technical assistance, along with providing a user ID and password to access the Web-based program used to collect the data.

Per the legislation a hospital that has not submitted a report shall be assessed a fine of ten dollars per licensed acute care bed per day, but in no case to exceed \$1,000 per day for each SPC-1 building not in compliance until it has complied. The fine funds are deposited in the Hospital Building Fund. A hospital assessed a fine may appeal the assessment to the Hospital Building Safety Board.

OSHPD has 90 days to post the reports online from the November 1, 2012 deadline.

The SB 499 reports are necessary to measure the level of seismic safety compliance achieved by California's hospitals. The basis of these reports is to require the facility to report detailed information on what they intend to do by 2030 for all hospital buildings on their campus and the manner in which they intend to comply with interim deadlines.

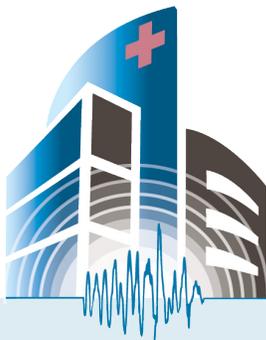
### Non-Structural Category (NPC) Deadlines Fast Approaching *Building permits restricted if compliance deadlines are missed*

Enacted in 1994, Senate Bill 1953 was established to provide that by 2030 California hospitals must be capable of remaining operational after a seismic event or other natural disaster. Consisting of two parts, the law requires hospitals to fix or replace buildings with structural problems that may cause them to collapse in an earthquake. Secondly, non-structural features such as electrical, mechanical, plumbing and fire safety systems must be anchored and braced so they don't become falling hazards and a threat to life in the event of a disaster.

While most hospitals are moving towards structural compliance crucial deadlines are approaching requiring hospitals to address their non-structural systems and equipment.

The original deadlines required hospitals to meet NPC-2 standards by January 1, 2002; NPC-3 standards by January 1, 2008, and NPC-4 and -5 standards by January 1, 2030. Hospitals in high seismicity regions are allowed to request an NPC-3 extension up to 2020, while hospitals in lower seismicity regions are allowed to request an exemption to NPC-3 up to 2030.

While the law does not require hospitals to report their NPC compliance, and there is currently no penalty for those hospitals that have not met these requirements, regulations restrict the use of these non-complying buildings and do not allow hospitals to obtain building permits in these buildings after certain dates except for emergency work and seismic compliance work.



### Ombudsman Line

If you have questions, unresolved issues or complaints about OSHPD's Facilities Development Division (FDD), call the **Director's Ombudsman Hotline at (916) 326-3608**.

The line is available 24/7. If you have any questions, leave a voice message. Your call will be returned within two to three working days or as soon as possible. You may also e-mail your questions to: **[Ombudsman@oshpd.ca.gov](mailto:Ombudsman@oshpd.ca.gov)**.

This line is not intended to handle specific questions regarding code interpretation or routine construction. These questions should be directed to OSHPD's plan review or field personnel.

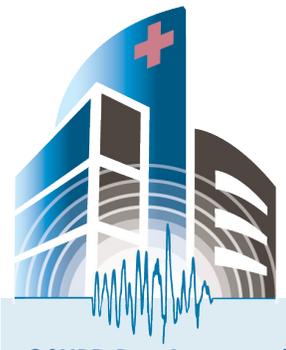
### LA Office

The Southern California office of FDD is located in the Metropolitan Water District Building in downtown Los Angeles, adjacent to the historic Union Station and within minutes of the region's transportation hubs such as Amtrak, Metro Red Line (subway) and MTA bus networks. Driving directions and parking in the vicinity may be found at **[www.mwdh2o.com/mwdh2o/pages/about/union\\_station\\_parking\\_map.pdf](http://www.mwdh2o.com/mwdh2o/pages/about/union_station_parking_map.pdf)**.

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## Rapid Review Dollar Amounts Increased

*Electronic Document Submittal Now Available  
Over-the-Counter Access Expands to Sacramento*

The Facilities Development Division's (FDD) Rapid Review Unit (RRU) continues to expand its offerings to its clients. Two of its biggest changes include increasing the maximum dollar amount for eligible projects to \$175,000 and requiring electronic document submittal for RRU eligibility. Additionally, to expedite and complement the San Diego Over-the-Counter (OTC) plan review these services are now available in Sacramento.

Created to provide expedient review times for qualified projects not involving unusual complexity, all RRU reviews will receive a turn-around target of 15 business days. Rapid Reviews apply to new projects up to a maximum estimated construction cost that ranges from \$100,000 - \$175,000. Determination of RRU eligibility is by the estimated construction cost excluding imaging equipment costs, design fees, inspection fees, offsite improvements, and fixed equipment costs including but not limited to sterilizers, chillers and boilers. The RRU process requires 256% less time than FDD's standard plan review process.

From January 1, 2012 when the Sacramento and San Diego teams began reviewing construction documents thru June 30, 2012 the unit performed 1,188 Project and Amended Construction Document (ACD) reviews, meeting its 15 business-day turnaround goal on 97% of the reviews.

New projects within the maximum construction cost threshold shall be submitted electronically, in order to be received by the RRU. Users can initiate the process at the "What's New" link at <http://oshpd.ca.gov/FDD/>.

The definitions of the five NPC ratings:

- NPC-1: In these buildings, the basic systems essential to life safety and patient care are inadequately anchored to resist earthquake forces. Hospitals were required to brace the communications, emergency power, bulk medical gas and fire alarm systems in these buildings by January 1, 2002.
- NPC-2: In these buildings, essential systems vital to the safe evacuation of the building are adequately braced. The building is expected to suffer significant nonstructural damage in a strong earthquake.
- NPC-3: In these buildings, nonstructural systems are adequately braced in critical areas of the hospital. If the building structure is not badly dam-

aged, the hospital should be able to provide basic emergency medical care following the earthquake.

For additional information call (916) 440-8440 to contact the Rapid Review Unit to learn if your project qualifies for the program.

### Rapid Review Over-the-Counter Expands to Sacramento

Rapid Review Over-the-Counter now offers these services in Sacramento. Differing from the standard Rapid Review program these sessions are for projects that would otherwise be eligible for reviews by field staff. OTC reviews include the following:

- Post Approval Documents (PADs) and Deferred Items (DIs) on large projects currently in construction, regardless of which Region performed the initial review.
- New projects that fall within the eligibility criteria for field reviews.

RRU OTC criteria dictate that each discipline review shall take no longer than 20 minutes. Reviews exceeding those criteria will be referred to the office. OTC reviews are scheduled by e-mail only. Please refer to the Rapid Review Unit webpage in order to access the link for initiating an OTC request.

Upon acceptance of the review for an OTC appointment, an application is required at least 5 business days in advance of the appointment so that a Project or PAD number can be assigned.

- NPC-4: In these buildings, the contents are braced in accordance with current code. If the building structure is not badly damaged, the hospital building should be able to function, although interruption of the municipal water supply or sewer system may impede operations.
- NPC-5: These buildings meet all the above criteria and have water and wastewater holding tanks—sufficient for 72 hours of emergency operations—integrated into the plumbing systems. They also contain an on-site emergency system and are able to provide radiological service and an on-site fuel supply for 72 hours of acute care operation.

### OSHPD Pre-Approved Details (OPD) Save Design and Review Time

OSHPD Preapproved Details (OPD) are created by OSHPD for use by Hospitals and Registered Design Professionals (RDP) on a voluntary basis. OPD eliminate project-specific design and review for components approved under the OPD, thereby saving time and money for hospital construction. OSHPD currently has OPD for internal partition walls based on the CBC 2007 (approved in August 2011) & CBC 2010 (approved in January 2012). OSHPD is currently working on developing OPD for:

- Ceilings
- Fire life safety and
- Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing

The OPD do not preempt the building permit process. Pre-approved details when incorporated without any modification into the construction documents are not subjected to additional review.

Pre-approved details are permitted as alternates to the approved details shown on the permitted

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## Status of Extension Applications

- Status as of August 24, 2012
- SPC-1 buildings = 545 (195 Facilities)
- Extension applications SPC-1 buildings = 370 (138 Facilities)
- Buildings without any extension application = 175 (87 Facilities)
- Facilities with SPC-1 building(s) and no extension = 57
- List sent to CDPH and CHA

Extension Type Bldgs.	SB 90	SB 1661	SB 499	SB 306	SB 608	AB 523
<b>SB 90</b>	<b>280</b>	22	1	36	11	3
<b>SB 1661</b>		<b>68</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>SB 499</b>			<b>4</b>	0	0	0
<b>SB 306</b>				<b>75</b>	0	0
<b>SB 608</b>					<b>11</b>	0
<b>AB 523</b>						<b>5</b>
<b>Facilities</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

## OSHPD Special Seismic Certification Pre-Approval (OSP)- Compliance With Code Requirements Easier

Q: What is Special Seismic Certification?

A: Special Seismic Certification is a “Certificate of Compliance” provided by equipment manufacturers with assurance that after a Design Earthquake (DE) equipment shall maintain:

1. Structural Integrity
2. Functionality

Q: Who determines what equipment and components require special seismic certification for OSHPD 1 facilities (Hospital Buildings)?

A: Equipment and components that require special seismic certification for OSHPD 1 facilities are listed explicitly in the California Building Code, 2010 (CBC 2010) Section 1708A.4.1.

Q: Do some equipment and components not listed in the CBC 2010 Section 1708A.4.1 require special seismic certification for OSHPD 1 facilities?

A: No. Only equipment and components listed in the CBC 2010 Section 1708A.4.1 require special seismic certification for OSHPD 1 facilities and nothing else.

Q: What is the test requirement for special seismic certification?

A: Test for special seismic certification should be in accordance with ICC-ES AC 156 (International Code Council – Evaluation Service Acceptance Criteria 156) as required by the CBC 2010 Section 1704A.4 and ASCE 7-05 (American Society of Civil Engineers Standard 7-05) Section 13.2.5.

Q: Where can I find information about OSHPD’s Special Seismic Certification Preapproval (OSP) program?

A: Detailed information about OSHPD’s Special Seismic Certification Preapproval (OSP) program is available at the OSHPD webpage below:

<http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/FDD/Pre-Approval/OSHPDSpecialSeismicCertificationPreapproval.pdf>

Q: Where can I get information about currently approved Special Seismic Certification (OSP list)?

A: The OSHPD website has OSP lists by category and details of the OSP at the following webpages:

<http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/FDD/Pre-Approval/OSPListbyCategory.pdf>

[http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/FDD/Pre-Approval/special\\_seismic\\_cert\\_pre-approval.html](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/FDD/Pre-Approval/special_seismic_cert_pre-approval.html)



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construction documents on a case-by-case basis, when approved by RDP and OSHPD. Although pre-approved details are not subjected to additional construction documents review, they are subject to field confirmation by OSHPD field staff.

For more information on Pre-Approved Details (OPD), please see OSHPD webpage listed below:

<http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/FDD/Pre-Approval/index.html>



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