



APPLICATION FOR ALTERNATE MATERIALS, DESIGN AND METHODS

Building and Safety Division
1 Town Square ~ Murrieta, CA 92562
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DS-170
May 2024

Please complete the following when requesting approval of a product or material based on its equivalency as an alternate material, design or method of construction in accordance with CBC 1.8.7

Project Name: _____

Project Location: _____

Applicant: _____ Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Proposed material/product, design or method: _____

Reason for this request: _____

ALL REQUESTS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- ☐ Copy of the material or product
- ☐ Copy of the material or product test report
- ☐ Copy of the standard for the product for which you believe the proposed product is equivalent
- ☐ Provide an analysis of the equivalency
- ☐ Copy of a third party verification and/or listing

SEE THE ATTACHED "GUIDELINES" FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

Guidelines for Approval of Alternate Materials, Design and Methods of Construction

Basis for Approval

For the Director of Building Safety (Director) or their designated agent to approve a request for modification or a request for alternate material or method of construction, they must determine that special individual reasons exist that make compliance with the strict letter of the Code impractical and that equivalency is provided. The resulting condition must be in conformance with the spirit and purpose of the Code provisions involved and that such modification does not lessen application to allow the above evaluation to be made.

Requirements for Submittals

The applicant design professional shall prepare a written report that describes the alternate proposal along with the applicable data listed below:

- State specific code provisions for which alternative is requested and why request is being submitted
- Describe, by code section, those provisions for which alternative is desired
- Compare the proposed alternative versus the code requirements in terms of structural strength, suitability, effectiveness, fire resistance, safety and health impacts affecting the building or user of the building
- Demonstrate the proposed alternative is compatible with the balance of code requirements
- When applicable, specify how authoritative consensus document(s) are used to substantiate proposal
- Provide assumptions, references, and documentation of evaluation methods utilized. This includes intended use, input data, anticipated outputs, and limitations of computer models and other analytical tools or methods
- Specify when and where special inspection and testing are required and the standards of acceptance for demonstrating compliance. Show how the proposed alternate, if accepted, will be identified on the job site
- Where land use restrictions and building setbacks are required, deed restrictions may be an appropriate method to ensure continued compliance
- State how and where alternate proposal is incorporated within construction plans and prepare plan amendments as necessary. The design professional has the responsibility to coordinate all construction documents and ensure compatibility between documents
- The report and design documents shall be dated, signed and stamped by the design professional according to plan submittal procedures
- For alternate methods of design requests, the applicant shall set performance criteria for their design. Performance criteria shall be reviewed, amended and approved by the Director prior to start of design

Alternative Design Review/Verification

The Director has the responsibility to review design submittals for compliance to the adopted codes and procedures. If the Director does not have the expertise on staff to make a thorough and competent review, the Director shall select a consultant that possesses the necessary qualifications to perform a third-party or peer-review. Cost of peer review shall be paid by applicant to the Building and Safety Department prior to commencing the review.

- Verify all applicable information and justifications listed above as requirements for submittals is received and verify evaluation design methods used by designer are appropriate to the alternative proposed
- Verify products are being used in accordance with their listing conditions. If not available, require documentation and/or testing to demonstrate compliance with intent of code and intended use
- Evaluate performance of material and possible flaws that could affect performance of material in its installed state
- The reviewer shall document the submittal has been reviewed and accepted as meeting the alternative materials, design and methods of construction provisions of the code. If the Director is not satisfied the applicant has met the conditions, the request should be denied in writing with the applicable reason(s)

Inspection/Field Verification

The alternate proposal as approved in the construction documents must be verified by inspections, and where necessary, testing as follows:

- To verify alternated materials, systems and fabricated products comply with accepted design criteria and the manufacturers and engineers installation procedures, inspectors shall check product labeling, certification, quality assurance processes, and testing as applicable
- When appropriate, an approved third party quality assurance inspection and testing service may be required for continuous inspection and testing activities. This is intended to verify that construction complies with the code and the approved plans