



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

Fire Department

Fire Prevention Division

GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS

GUIDELINE H.01 – Requests for Alternative Materials and Methods

H.01.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this guide is to provide direction for submitting requests to the fire code official for the use of alternate materials and methods of providing fire protection in accordance with the Fire Code.

H.01.2 SCOPE

The Fire Code allows the fire code official to approve an alternative material or method of construction where the fire code official finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and complies with the intent of the provisions of the Fire Code, and that the material, method or work offered is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in the Code in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability and safety.

Approvals involving alternate materials and methods regulated by the Building Code are subject to the approval of the City's building official.

H.01.3 PROCEDURE

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

1. The applicant shall provide the following information, in writing, along with any plans, specifications or other information necessary to evaluate the request:
 - Identify the project name, address, contact name and telephone number.
 - Newport Beach Building Department plan check number, if assigned.
2. Identify the code section or reference the specific requirement for which the modification is requested.
3. Specifically detail how the proposed modification will establish equivalency with currently adopted codes, ordinances, standards, and regulations.

4. List any relevant codes, ordinances, standards, and regulations which support the modification

THIRD PARTY EVALUATION

1. If the fire code official determines that a third-party evaluation is necessary, it shall be performed by a qualified firm or individual approved by the Fire Prevention Division. All costs associated with the third-party review and the subsequent report shall be borne by the applicant.

SUBMITTAL PROCESS

1. When submitted, the request for alternate means, methods and materials shall accompany all other items noted in H.01.3 above.
2. The request shall be submitted directly to the Fire Marshal.
3. All requests will be evaluated by Fire Prevention staff on a case-by-case basis. Approval of the request is based upon several factors, including, but not limited to:
 - Level of equivalency achieved.
 - The effect of the modification on emergency response and operations.
 - Physical and geographical conditions.
4. Approvals are only granted for the specific modification under consideration and are not to be construed as applicable to any other project unless specifically stated in the approval. Approvals may be conditional upon the implementation of additional requirements that were not part of the request but are deemed necessary by the Fire Prevention Division.
5. Approval or denial of the request shall be in writing and shall become part of the permanent record. Approved modifications to buildings and structures during the normal plan review process shall be blue-lined on the plans prior to final approval.

APPEALS

1. Denial of the request by the fire code official may be appealed to the City of Newport Beach Building and Fire Board of Appeals in accordance with Guideline H.02 – Appeals.