

[Building Code - All-Electric Major Renovations]

Ordinance amending the Building Code to require buildings undergoing major renovations to remain or convert to All-Electric Buildings with exceptions for physical and technical infeasibility, commercial food establishments, non-residential-to-residential conversions, buildings with recent major system replacements, and 100% Affordable Housing; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and directing the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to forward this Ordinance to the California Building Standards Commission upon final passage.

NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
Additions to Codes are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
Deletions to Codes are in ~~*strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*~~.
Board amendment additions are in double-underlined Arial font.
Board amendment deletions are in ~~Arial font~~.
Asterisks (* * * *) indicate the omission of unchanged Code subsections or parts of tables.

Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

Section 1. General Findings.

(a) The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 250702 and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board affirms this determination.

(b) On July 16, 2025, the Building Inspection Commission considered this ordinance at a duly noticed public hearing pursuant to Charter Section 4.121 and Building Code Section

1 104A.2.11.1.1. A copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Building Inspection Commission
2 regarding the Commission's recommendation is on file with the Clerk of the Board of
3 Supervisors in File No. 250702.
4

5 Section 2. Findings Regarding Local Conditions.

6 (a) California Health and Safety Code Sections 17958.7 and 18941.5 provide that local
7 jurisdictions may enact more restrictive building standards than those contained in the
8 California Building Code, provided that the local jurisdictions make express findings that each
9 change or modification is reasonably necessary because of local climate, geologic, or
10 topographical conditions and that the local jurisdictions file the local amendments and
11 required findings with the California Building Standards Commission before the local changes
12 or modifications can go into effect.

13 (b) The Board of Supervisors hereby finds and declares that the following
14 amendments to the San Francisco Building Code are reasonably necessary because of local
15 climatic, topological, and geological conditions as discussed below.

16 (1) The topography of San Francisco creates increased risk of fire due to
17 high density of buildings on very small and steep lots with high population density. It is
18 necessary and appropriate to limit reliance on natural gas infrastructure and impose safety
19 measures on any natural gas infrastructure that would otherwise increase acute and
20 cumulative fire risk across the City.

21 (2) San Francisco's geologic and topographic conditions produce increased
22 risk for earthquake-induced failure, which can lead to fires due to local hazardous seismic
23 microzones, slide areas, and local liquefaction hazards. Natural gas infrastructure may
24 rupture, fail, and/or explode due to earthquake-induced structural failure. After seismic
25 events, natural gas infrastructure will take significantly longer to resume service compared to

1 electrical infrastructure. It is necessary, appropriate, and cost effective to reduce fire risk and
2 increase resiliency by reducing natural gas infrastructure when conducting major renovations,
3 requiring essential building systems be Electric Ready to function on electricity during natural
4 gas service disruptions, and imposing safety requirements for any new or remaining natural
5 gas infrastructure.

6 (3) San Francisco's climate and topography create wind patterns and
7 periodic seasonal high temperatures that produce smog and ozone that exacerbate the
8 respiratory ailments of residents. Natural gas combustion is a major source of indoor air
9 pollution that further exacerbates the effects of regional pollution for the City's residents and
10 can be particularly acute given the City's dense population and smaller dwelling units.
11 Studies have shown children living in homes with natural gas stoves have a 42% higher risk of
12 experiencing asthma symptoms, and those impacts may be exacerbated in a compact city
13 such as San Francisco where low-income households are more likely to have more people
14 living in smaller spaces with poor ventilation. It is reasonable and appropriate to reduce
15 pollution exposure and resulting human health impacts by utilizing All-Electric construction for
16 major renovations, and ensuring proper ventilation for any remaining or new natural gas
17 infrastructure.

18 (4) The City and County of San Francisco's General Plan, as approved prior
19 to June 10, 2025, advances the health and safety of San Francisco residents and businesses,
20 and explicitly references and integrates the goals and strategies of the San Francisco Climate
21 Action Plan. In alignment with the City's adopted greenhouse gas emissions reduction
22 strategy, the General Plan supports the transition to all-electric buildings.

23
24 Section 3. Chapters 1A and 2 of the Building Code are hereby amended by adding
25 Section 106A.1.17.3 to Section 106A, and revising Section 202, to read as follows:

1
2 **SECTION 106A – PERMITS**

3 * * * *

4 **106A.1.17.3 All-Electric Major Renovations.** After ~~July~~January 1, 2026, the Building Official
5 shall not accept permit applications to conduct Major Renovations, as defined in Section 202 of this
6 Code, of Mixed-Fuel Buildings. Permit applications for Major Renovations submitted to the
7 Department after that date may only be accepted for work that retains or results in All-Electric
8 Buildings or Projects.

9 **EXCEPTIONS:** The Building Official may accept an application and issue a permit for Major
10 Renovation of a Mixed-Fuel Building that qualifies for one of the five exceptions outlined below. Any
11 permit qualifying for one of the exceptions shall be Electric-Ready and shall provide equivalent health,
12 safety, and fire-protection to a design with no gas piping systems. The Department of Building
13 Inspection, in consultation with the Environment Department, shall publish Design Guidelines and
14 Review Procedures for Public Safety and Electric-Ready Construction to facilitate implementation of
15 this requirement.

16 (1) Upon the Building Official's finding that converting to an All-Electric Building or
17 Project is physically or technically infeasible and that a modification pursuant to Section 104A.2.7 is
18 warranted. Financial considerations shall not play any role in determining physical or technical
19 infeasibility. Modifications shall only be issued under this exception if the Building Official finds: (a)
20 sufficient evidence was submitted to substantiate the infeasibility of an All-Electric Building or Project
21 design; (b) the installation of natural gas piping systems, fixtures, and/or infrastructure is strictly
22 limited to the system and area of the building for which an All-Electric Building or Project design is
23 infeasible; and (c) the project's modified design provides health, safety, and fire-protection equivalent
24 to that of an All-Electric Building or Project design; or
25

1 (2) The Building Official may issue a permit for Major Renovation of a Mixed-Fuel
2 Building that includes an area specifically designated for occupancy by a commercial food service
3 establishment (A-2, B, or F Occupancy) that is a Mixed-Fuel Building solely because it retains gas
4 pipng systems, fixtures, and/or infrastructure exclusively for cooking equipment within the designated
5 commercial food service area; or

6 (3) Major Renovation projects that consist of a change of use from non-residential to new
7 residential dwelling units shall be exempt from this Section 106A.1.17.3 through January 1, 2031 and
8 are not required to be Electric Ready. After January 1, 2031, this exception expires.

9 (4) The Building Official may issue a permit for Major Renovation involving a Substantial
10 Upgrade to Mechanical Systems if the following conditions are met: (a) The project installs either
11 space heating or water heating systems that will serve at least 80% of the total conditioned floor area
12 of the building; and (b) The project retains for ongoing use an existing water heating or space heating
13 system that serves at least 80% of the total conditioned floor area, provided the equipment was
14 installed within the last five years and complies with all applicable codes and safety standards.

15 (5) 100% Affordable Housing, as defined in Administrative Code Section 109.1, shall be
16 exempt from this Section 106A.1.17.3 until ~~July~~January 1, 2027. From ~~July~~January 1, 2027 to
17 January 1, 2031~~2028~~, 100% Affordable Housing projects that demonstrate the cost of converting to
18 All-Electric conflicts with the projects' ability to meet their housing goals are exempt. After January 1,
19 2031~~2028~~, this exception expires.

20 * * * *

21 **SECTION 202 – DEFINITIONS**

22 **ALL-ELECTRIC BUILDING OR PROJECT.** A building or project that uses a
23 permanent supply of electricity as the source of energy for all on-site space conditioning
24 (including heating and cooling), water heating (including pools and spas), cooking appliances,
25 and clothes drying appliances. Use of steam generated off-site for space conditioning, water

1 heating, laundry equipment, or cooking appliances is permitted. An All-Electric Building or
2 Project may not install natural gas or propane piping systems, fixtures, or infrastructure for
3 those purposes in or in connection with the building, structure, or within property lines of the
4 premises, extending from the point of delivery at the gas meter. An All-Electric Building or
5 Project may contain natural gas infrastructure dedicated solely to serve appliances covered by the
6 Federal Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 6201 et seq.), provided that the building
7 complies with Design Guidelines and Review Procedures for Public Safety and Electric-Ready
8 Construction published by the Department of Building Inspection. All-Electric Projects include
9 additions or expansions of existing buildings that constitute Substantial Improvements as defined by
10 Section 202 of this code, where the unaltered building area may remain a Mixed-Fuel Building.

11 * * * *

12 **MAJOR RENOVATION.** An alteration or addition to an existing building that includes
13 Substantial Upgrade to Mechanical Systems, and one or more of the following:

14 (1) a Non-structural Alteration that is substantial pursuant to Section 503.11.1 or Section
15 304.5 of the San Francisco Existing Building Code;

16 (2) a Substantial Structural Alteration as defined by Section 202 of the San Francisco Existing
17 Building Code;

18 (3) an addition that is a Substantial Improvement as defined by Section 202 of this Code.

19 **MAJOR SYSTEM.** A space heating or water heating system serving 80% or more of total
20 conditioned floor area of the building.

21 **MIXED-FUEL BUILDING.** A building that uses natural gas or propane as fuel for space
22 heating or cooling, exterior heating, decorative uses and lighting, water heating (including
23 pools and spas), cooking appliances or clothes drying appliances, onsite generation of
24 electricity (except where primarily fueled by onsite digestion of organic material), or contains
25 fixtures, piping systems, or infrastructure for natural gas or propane equipment for such uses.

* * * *

SUBSTANTIAL UPGRADE TO MECHANICAL SYSTEMS. *An alteration or addition to an existing building where the proposed project either:*

- (1) Replaces space heating and hot water heating system for the entire building; or*
- (2) Installs space heating and water heating systems that will serve 80% or more of the total conditioned floor area of the building; or*
- (3) Installs space conditioning or water heating systems serving the area of addition.*

Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

Section 5. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles, numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the "Note" that appears under the official title of the ordinance.

Section 6. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance, or any application thereof, is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of the ordinance. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance,

1 irrespective of whether any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or
2 phrases of the ordinance, or applications thereof, be declared invalid.

3
4 Section 7. Directions to Clerk. Upon enactment of this ordinance, the Clerk of the
5 Board of Supervisors is hereby directed to transmit this ordinance to the California Building
6 Standards Commission pursuant to the applicable provisions of State law.

7
8 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
9 DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

10 By: /s/ Robb Kapla
11 ROBB KAPLA
 Deputy City Attorney

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