

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Mechanical Code - Repeal of Existing 2016 Code and Enactment of 2019 Edition]

Ordinance repealing the 2016 Mechanical Code in its entirety and enacting a 2019 Mechanical Code consisting of the 2019 California Mechanical Code as amended by San Francisco; adopting environmental findings and findings of local conditions under the California Health and Safety Code; providing an operative date of January 1, 2020; and directing the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to forward the legislation to the California Building Standards Commission as required by State law.

Existing Law

The Mechanical Code regulates heating, ventilating, air-conditioning, exhaust and duct systems, refrigeration, and miscellaneous heat-producing and energy-utilizing equipment. The current San Francisco Mechanical Code consists of the 2016 California Mechanical Code (which incorporates the 2015 Uniform Mechanical Code) and San Francisco's local amendments to the 2019 California Mechanical Code ("San Francisco Amendments").

Amendments to Current Law

Every three years the State of California adopts a new California Building Standards Code ("triennial CBSC"), which amends the California Mechanical Code and the other state codes that constitute the CBSC. The 2019 triennial CBSC will go into effect throughout the State on January 1, 2020. As in past triennial CBSC adoption cycles, San Francisco will repeal its existing Mechanical Code in its entirety and adopt a new Mechanical Code that applies San Francisco's existing local amendments to the new California Mechanical Code. Except for non-substantive or technical modifications required by amendments to the state code, there are no changes to the existing San Francisco Mechanical Code amendments being carried forward.

Background Information

Local jurisdictions are required to enforce the California Building Standards Code but they may also enact more restrictive building standards that are reasonably necessary because of local climate, geology, or topography. Local amendments may be made to a triennial CBSC and also throughout the intervening years. However, local amendments previously adopted are not automatically transferred to a new triennial CBSC. Rather, they must be re-enacted with the required findings of local climate, geologic, or topographical conditions, expressly made applicable to the new triennial CBSC, and with an operative date no earlier than the effective date of the new State Code.