

## ACCEPTANCE OF PRODUCTS, MATERIALS, AND EVALUATION REPORTS

# IR A-5

References: 2007 California Building Code (CBC), Section 1605A.4  
California Building Administrative Code, Section 4-304  
Discipline: Structural

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This Interpretation of Regulations (IR) is intended for use by the Division of the State Architect (DSA) staff, and as a resource for design professionals, to promote more uniform statewide criteria for plan review and construction inspection of projects within the jurisdiction of DSA, which include State of California public elementary and secondary schools (grades K-12), community colleges, and state-owned or state-leased essential services buildings. This IR indicates an acceptable method for achieving compliance with applicable codes and regulations, although other methods proposed by design professionals may be considered by DSA.

This IR is reviewed on a regular basis and is subject to revision at any time. Please check the DSA web site for currently effective IR's. Only IR's listed in the document at <http://www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov/Pubs/default.htm> (click on "DSA Interpretation of Regulations Manual") at the time of plan submittal to DSA are considered applicable.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this Interpretation of Regulations (IR) is to describe the DSA Structural Safety's (DSA-SS) policy on the acceptance of structural products and to clarify DSA policy on the acceptability and use of product evaluation reports issued by other agencies and organizations, for projects submitted to DSA under the 2007 California Building Code (CBC).

**Background:** Structural products were accepted to use on DSA projects either through compliance with DSA Product Acceptance (PA) Reports or ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) Reports. Many products that had obtained DSA Acceptance Reports under the alternate materials and methods provision in the 2001 CBC are now prescribed or referenced in the 2007 CBC.

The 2007 CBC took effect on January 1, 2008. There are major changes from the previous 2001 CBC. This IR describes the DSA-SS acceptance of structural products and third-party evaluation reports, effective under the 2007 CBC.

**Scope:** This IR is applicable to DSA acceptance of alternate structural products and materials per Title 24, Part 1, Section 4-304 and structural products or materials that are regulated by those provisions in Title 24, Part 2, CBC Chapters 14A through 25A adopted by DSA-SS.

Product acceptance by the DSA Access Compliance (e.g. detectable warning products) and DSA Fire Life Safety (e.g. fire rating of assemblies), and energy efficiency is beyond the scope of this IR.

**1. Acceptance of Structural Products:** Structural products and materials, as described in the Scope section of this IR, may be accepted for use on DSA projects if they meet the following requirements:

- 1.1** Products, including alternate materials, must have a valid evaluation listing/report issued by a recognized evaluation agency. (See Section 3 below)
- 1.2** In addition to valid listings, products that are prescribed in the CBC and its adopted standards, including DSA Interpretation of Regulations (IR), Circulars or Bulletins, shall comply with those prescribed requirements.
- 1.3** DSA has the final determination on the acceptability of a product, and the valid listing (see Section 5 below).

**2. DSA PA Reports:** Effective January 1, 2008, DSA PA reports will not be issued or renewed to show conformance with the 2007 CBC.

**2.1. Existing PA Reports:** Structural products used for projects submitted under the 2001 CBC may continue to use the applicable existing DSA PA reports for products designed to conform to the 2001 CBC.

**3. VALID LISTINGS:** DSA will accept evaluation reports that meet the eligibility criteria listed below and are used in accordance with Section 4 of this IR. The intent is to accept evaluation reports for products or materials that comply with the California Building Code (CBC) and DSA requirements, demonstrate satisfactory performance, and are manufactured under a quality assurance program.

For DSA to consider acceptance, evaluation reports issued by other agencies or organizations must meet the following criteria:

**3.1** The product or material must comply with the California Building Code (CBC). Evaluation reports may not be acceptable if the product does not comply with applicable DSA amendments (to the model code) contained in the CBC and/or applicable DSA IR, Circulars or Bulletins.

**3.2** The evaluation report must be current and valid. Reports that are more than three years old are considered expired except as noted in Section 3.3 below.

**3.3** The evaluation report must be issued by one of the following DSA recognized agencies or organizations:

- International Code Council Evaluation Service. All reports that are currently posted on the ICC ES website are considered current and valid, including reports with prefix ESR and Legacy Reports.
- Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), OPA reports.
- City of Los Angeles (COLA), Research Report (RR).
- Miami-Dade County, Florida, Product Control Division, Notice of Acceptance (NOA), for reports relating to wind resistance.
- Other product certification bodies that are certified to be in compliance with ISO Guide 65, "General Requirements for Bodies Operating Product Certification Programs".

**3.4** The evaluation report must be issued on the following basis:

- Compliance with CBC adopted model code (e.g. 2006 IBC), DSA IR, Circulars, Bulletins, referenced standards, published consensus acceptance criteria, and/or industrial standards, e.g. ASTM specification.
- Successful completion of all required tests.
- The product manufacturer must maintain a required Quality Assurance and Control program including periodic independent third party audits.

**3.5** Products or materials listed in evaluation reports must have continued acceptable performance.

**4. USE OF REPORTS:** Eligible evaluation reports, per Section 3 of this IR, may be accepted for use on projects under DSA jurisdiction, if used in accordance with the following:

- 4.1 The design, application and installation of the product shall comply with the requirements of the CBC, IR, Circulars, Bulletins, and the applicable evaluation reports. The minimum required Seismic Design Category is D per the 2007 CBC, Section 1613A.5.6.
- 4.2 For products or materials used to resist lateral forces, use 80% of the listed values in the evaluation reports unless the listed values were established on the basis of cyclic test results.
- 4.3 The applicable evaluation report and all the documents required by the evaluation report shall be submitted to DSA with the project application package.
- 4.4 For certain types of products, the evaluation report may not be the sole basis for acceptance. DSA regional offices will review, on a project specific basis, those products or materials that require the following:
- Substantial project or site-specific design or engineering
  - Custom assembly or construction on site
- The following are examples of these types of products:
- Earth retaining systems such as segmental walls
  - Foundation systems such as rammed aggregate piers
  - Proprietary steel Special Moment Resisting Frame (SMRF) connections

5. **CHANGES IN DSA ACCEPTANCE:** DSA may reject, discontinue or impose conditions on the acceptance of a product or report in the following situations:
- Documented structural safety problems such as failure, collapse, etc.,
  - When products are modified and become non-conforming with CBC, its adopted standards, and / or evaluation reports,
  - Recalls by the manufacturer, evaluation agencies or other government agencies
  - Documented inconsistencies with evaluation reports, or
  - Method of justification of a product's behavior not consistent with products condition of use (e.g. seismic force resisting product not dynamically or cyclically tested)