

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF CODES AND STANDARDS**

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February 25, 2021

**INFORMATION BULLETIN 2021-04 (MH)**

**TO:** California Department of Public Health  
California Department of Motor Vehicles  
County and City Health Departments  
Interested Parties

**FROM:** Kyle Krause, Acting Deputy Director  
Division of Codes and Standards

**SUBJECT:** **Special Purpose Commercial Modular—Mobile Food Facilities**

This Information Bulletin is issued to clarify the California Department of Housing and Community Development (Department) laws and regulations, specifically those applicable to special purpose commercial modulars<sup>1,2</sup> (SPCMs) that are newly manufactured, altered, or remanufactured<sup>3</sup>, to be used as a mobile food facility<sup>4</sup> (MFF).

The Department administers the design and construction of SPCMs through Department-approved third-party agencies<sup>5</sup> including those that are MFFs. State and local agencies are reminded that Department laws and regulations, including the California Building Standards Code (CBSC) and references therein, applicable to SPCMs are preemptive<sup>6</sup> and local ordinances amending the CBSC are not applicable to the design and construction of SPCMs. An insignia of approval is required on all SPCMs<sup>7</sup> and it is unlawful for any person to remove an insignia without prior approval from the Department.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [California Health and Safety Code section 18012.5](#)

<sup>2</sup> [California Health and Safety Code section 18015.1](#)

<sup>3</sup> [California Code of Regulations, title 25, section 4525](#)

<sup>4</sup> [California Health and Safety Code section 113831](#)

<sup>5</sup> [California Health and Safety Code section 18013.2](#)

<sup>6</sup> [California Health and Safety Code section 18015](#)

<sup>7</sup> [California Code of Regulations, title 25, section 4032](#)

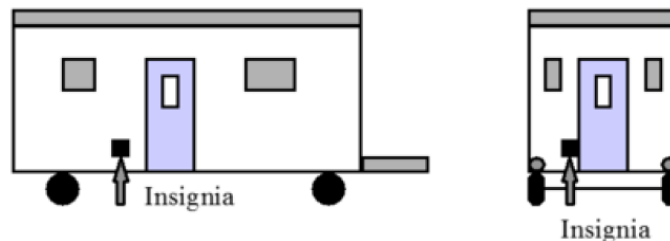
<sup>8</sup> [California Health and Safety Code section 18026\(c\)](#)

SPCMs that are MFFs require three approvals; provided in general order:

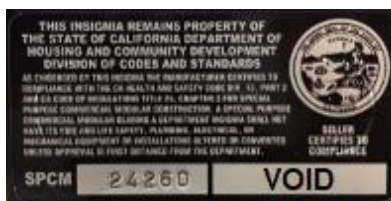
- License/registration from the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), as a vehicle.<sup>9</sup>
- Issuance of insignia for approval of an SPCM meeting minimum building standards<sup>10</sup> by the Department or a Department-approved third-party agency.
  - New or remanufactured SPCMs produced in a factory by a manufacturer<sup>11</sup> are granted approval by third-party agencies<sup>12</sup> through design approval and quality assurance inspections during production.
  - Existing/used SPCMs that have not previously been approved by the Department or those undergoing alteration, repair, conversion or change in occupancy may be granted approval by a permitted coding inspection<sup>13</sup> performed by the Department.
- Final approval/certification as an MFF by the state or local health official.<sup>14</sup>

### Department Insignia of Approval

Department-approved/issued insignia(s) shall be affixed in the following locations on an SPCM:<sup>15</sup>



The following is an example of an SPCM insignia of approval issued by the Department or a Department-approved third-party agency. An SPCM insignia represents compliance with the applicable design and construction standards in effect at the time of approval.



<sup>9</sup> [California Vehicle Code section 670](#). Contact the DMV for more information.

<sup>10</sup> [California Code of Regulations, title 25, section 4525](#)

<sup>11</sup> [California Health and Safety Code section 18006.3](#)

<sup>12</sup> [California Health and Safety Code section 18013.2](#)

<sup>13</sup> [California Code of Regulations, title 25, section 4011](#)

<sup>14</sup> [California Health and Safety Code section 114294](#). Contact your local health official for more information.

<sup>15</sup> [California Code of Regulations, title 25, section 4030\(b\)](#)

The California Department of Public Health, DMV, local health officials, interested parties, and the general public are encouraged to **refer SPCM customers to the Department when the unit does not have a Department-issued insignia of approval**. Please contact the Department's Northern Area Office at (800) 952-8356 or [NAOStaff@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:NAOStaff@hcd.ca.gov) or the Southern Area Office at (800) 952-8356 or [SAOStaff@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:SAOStaff@hcd.ca.gov) for more information.

Questions regarding this Information Bulletin may be directed to the Department at [ContactMH-FBH@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:ContactMH-FBH@hcd.ca.gov) or (800) 952-8356. You may also visit Department's [Third-Party Agency Certification website](#) to access further details.