October 30, 2009

INFORMATION BULLETIN 2009-07 (MH, OL, RT)

TO: Manufactured Home Manufacturers and Dealers
    Building Officials
    Department of Real Estate
    Division Staff
    Registration and Titling Interested Parties

SUBJECT: MANUFACTURED HOME, MOBILEHOME, MULTIFAMILY
         MANUFACTURED HOME WATER HEATER SEISMIC BRACING,
         ANCHORING AND STRAPPING REGULATIONS

The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to announce that the Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) new regulations for the seismic bracing, anchoring or strapping ("bracing") of storage-type fuel-burning water heater appliances in new and used manufactured homes, mobilehomes, and multifamily manufactured homes ("manufactured structure") have been approved and became effective on October 15, 2009.

HCD adopted regulations into California Code of Regulations, Title 25, Chapter 3, Subchapter 2 (25CCR), Article 2.1, Sections 4100, 4102 and 4104. A copy of the regulations is attached for your reference and use. The new regulations, as required by AB 2050, Chapter 737, Statutes of 2008, implement California Health and Safety Code Section 18031.7 subdivisions (e), (f) and (g).

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS

I. 25CCR Article 2.1, Section 4100 (a) and (b) provide the following:
   1. The requirements apply only to the bracing of fuel-burning storage-type water heater appliances. Electric storage-type water heaters and gas or electric tankless-type water heater appliances are exempt from these regulations.
   2. The requirements apply to the seismic bracing of fuel-burning water heater appliances in manufactured structures as follows:
      a. In new manufactured homes and multifamily manufactured homes installed by either the manufacturer, dealer or owner-builder either prior to or at the time of installation on a pier and pad foundation or foundation system, or,
      b. In used manufactured structures, upon replacement of, or installation of a fuel-burning water heater appliance, or,
      c. In used manufactured structures, upon renting, leasing or selling, or,
      d. In used manufactured structures that are currently rented or leased.
II. 25CCR Article 2.1, Section 4102:
   1. Provides requirements for manufactured structure owners to provide a signed declaration that the fuel-burning water heater appliance is seismically secure in accordance with the regulations on the date of transfer of title.

III. 25CCR Article 2.1, Section 4104:
   1. The installation of fuel-burning water heater seismic bracing, by itself, will not require a permit provided no other alterations result from the installation of that seismic bracing to the manufactured structure, or its mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems.

ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION & TITLING INFORMATION

I. 25CCR Article 4, Section 5545:
   1. The Registration and Titling Program is currently in the process of updating Section 5545 of its regulations to require a signed declaration be submitted with a transfer application indicating that any fuel-burning water heater appliance is seismically secure in accordance with the applicable regulation on the date of transfer of title; or, in lieu of this declaration, if the manufactured structure does not contain a fuel-burning water heater appliance, a statement signed under penalty of perjury may be submitted that indicates the type of water heater appliance installed in the manufactured structure.

Questions regarding Article 2.1 should be directed to the Manufactured Housing Program staff by calling 916-445-3338. Questions regarding “Additional Registration and Titling Information” should be directed to Registration and Titling staff at 916-323-9224.

Kim Strange
Deputy Director

Attachment: 25CCR Article 2.1