October 31, 2013

INFORMATION BULLETIN 2013-03 (FBH)

TO: City and County Building Officials
Factory-built Housing Manufacturers
Third-Party Agencies
Interested Parties (FBH)
Division Staff

SUBJECT: 2013 California Building Standards Code Effective Date for Factory-built Housing (FBH)

January 1, 2014 is the statewide effective date established by the California Building Standards Commission for the 2013 California Building Standards Code (CBS Code). These codes apply to residential occupancies that include products designed and constructed under the Factory-built Housing¹ (FBH) Program under the authority of the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), as enforced by HCD-approved third-party agencies. Factory-built Housing does not include HUD-code manufactured homes, mobilehomes or multifamily manufactured housing.

This Information Bulletin provides 60-day advance notice (See Title 25, California Code of Regulations, Section 3049) that all new plans and quality control manuals submitted to HCD-approved design approval agencies on and after January 1, 2014, and all new units beginning construction on and after January 1, 2014 shall be designed, and/or constructed in accordance with the 2013 CBS Code and FBH regulations if such designs are intended to be utilized for FBH product that is sold or offered for sale in California.

For FBH under construction as of January 1, 2014 (based on existing plans and quality control manuals which were approved prior to January 1, 2014, and which have an expiration date after the January 1, 2014 effective date of the 2013 CBS Code), HCD has established March 1, 2014, as the reasonable date by which manufacturers must

¹ “Factory-built housing” means a residential building, dwelling unit, or an individual dwelling room or combination of rooms thereof, or building component, assembly, or system manufactured in such a manner that all concealed parts or processes of manufacture cannot be inspected before installation at the building site without disassembly, damage, or destruction of the part, including units designed for use as part of an institution for resident or patient care, that is either wholly manufactured or is in substantial part manufactured at an offsite location to be wholly or partially assembled onsite in accordance with building standards published in the California Building Standards Code and other regulations adopted by the commission pursuant to Section 19990.
resubmit all existing FBH plans and quality control manuals with appropriate revisions or they shall become void. All FBH units entering production on or after March 1, 2014, that are sold or offered for sale in California to first users, shall be constructed in compliance with the 2013 CBS Code and the approved plans and manuals. This does not prohibit an FBH manufacturer from constructing FBH units to the 2013 CBS Code prior to March 1, 2014. Plan and manual submissions made pursuant to Section 3049 will be processed as revisions to approved plans or quality control manuals. Plan approval or quality control manual submissions made after the specified time period will be processed as new plan approvals or manual submissions.

HCD requests that building officials share this Information Bulletin with other housing, environmental health, and fire service officials within their jurisdiction who have code enforcement responsibilities for housing. Additional information regarding HCD’s FBH Program can be found in the Factory-built Housing Handbook for City and County Building Departments located at http://www.hcd.ca.gov/codes/fbh/fbh-bktl.pdf

Questions or comments regarding this Information Bulletin should be directed to Kevin Cimini, Manufactured and Factory-built Housing Program Manager, at (916) 445-3338, or by e-mail to kcjimini@hcd.ca.gov.

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