



Planning and Development Department
Building and Safety Division

CITY OF BERKELEY
Planning and Development, Building & Safety Division
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Guidelines for Approval of Alternative Materials, Design and Methods of Construction

In order to formalize a more conventional approach for developing and reviewing *Applications for Alternative Materials or Methods of Construction* under the provisions of the 2010 California Building Code Section 104.11 and the 2010 California Residential Code Section R104.11, the following guidelines have been established.

1. In order to request the Building Official's review and approval of any Alternate Method(s) of Construction, the applicant and/or registered design professional shall fill out an *Application for Alternate Materials or Methods of Construction*. The form is available at the Permit Service Center or on-line at <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us>. Select: "Forms & Applications", then "Building & Safety", then "Application for Alternate Materials or Methods of Construction". The request must be accompanied by the necessary additional documentation and must:
 - a. Describe all elements of the *Alternative* (i.e., materials, products, and methods of construction) and explain why request is being submitted.
 - b. Specify the code provision(s) for which the *Alternative* is requested.
 - c. Compare the proposed *Alternative* with the code requirements in terms of suitability, effectiveness, quality, durability, fire resistance, safety, structural strength, and any other impacts affecting the building or users of the building.
 - d. Provide documentation for evaluation methods, test reports, recognized standards, and expert opinions utilized in the request.
 - e. Specify when and where special inspection and testing are required at the job site and describe the verification procedures for field acceptance for demonstrating compliance.
2. The Application and supporting documentation shall be dated, signed, and stamped by the registered design professional.
3. The registered design professional shall coordinate construction documents to reflect the alternative proposal and shall be responsible for incorporating all the specifics of the proposal and conditions of approval into the reproducible drawings.
4. The Building Official and/or Fire Marshal shall review the proposed *Alternative* and supporting documentation for conformance with the adopted codes, ordinances, and regulations. If the City Officials do not have the expertise on staff to make a thorough and competent review, a third party or peer review process may be utilized. The cost of any such review shall be paid by the applicant, as specified in the City of Berkeley Fee Schedule.

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