



SPECIAL INSPECTION INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES

What is a Special Inspection? Special Inspection: Inspection of construction requiring the expertise of an approved special inspector to ensure compliance with the building code, project Engineer design, and the approved construction documents as per California Building Code 202. If your project requires a Special Inspection in addition to City of Oakland permit inspections, the name of the Special Inspector shall be provided to the City of Oakland Plan Checker prior to issuance of the permit.

Does the City of Oakland perform the Special Inspection? Special Inspections are not performed by City of Oakland Inspectors. Special Inspections shall be performed by a third-party Special Inspector who is objective, competent, and independent from the contractor responsible for the work being inspected. The design engineer may also qualify as a Special Inspector for their project. A Special Inspection is not in lieu of required City of Oakland inspections and approvals. No work shall be covered without City of Oakland permit inspector approval.

Do I have to use a Special Inspector from the above list? No. Use the ‘Recognized Special Inspector Form’ to submit the required information for the Special Inspector that you intend to use to your assigned City of Oakland plan checker. The information will be reviewed and approved by the City of Oakland. (CBC 1703.1)

When do I need to let the City of Oakland know who the project special inspector(s) are? Prior to issuance of a building permit, the project shall provide to the City of Oakland Plan Checker or the Permit Center the name(s), certifications, qualifications of the Special Inspector(s) for the project

When are Special Inspections required? Special Inspections are required to be periodic or continuous. For continuous inspections, the special inspector must be present while the construction is in progress. Two examples of continuous special inspections are welding and shotcrete. Periodic special inspections require the inspector to be present intermittently. The approved plans should indicate whether periodic or continuous Special Inspection, as defined in CBC 202, is required per CBC 1705.

What does a Special Inspector need to do to inspect a project? Prior to construction, Special Inspectors must submit written documentation to the Bureau of Building demonstrating their competence and experience. The registered design professional in charge and engineers of record involved in the design, and their personnel, are permitted to act as special inspectors for the work designed by them, provided they qualify as Special Inspectors (CBC 1704.2) Special Inspectors listed on the Inter-Agency Regional list of recognized Special Inspectors or Special Inspectors as approved by the City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety do not need to submit written documentation.

Does that mean that the City of Oakland will not inspect my project if I have a Special Inspector? Special Inspections are in addition to, not in lieu of, inspections by City of Oakland Inspectors.

When does the Special Inspection need to take place? When Special Inspections are required, they must precede inspections by City of Oakland Inspectors. City of Oakland Inspectors will not approve phases of construction requiring Special Inspection until written approval from the special inspector is received. Special Inspection Report must be provided to City of Oakland inspector upon request.

How do I know if I need a Special Inspector? Plans and Construction documents should clearly indicate the scope of required Special Inspections. Questions regarding the applicability of Special inspections for a specific project should be directed to the City of Oakland plan checker. Questions related to the format and frequency of the Special Inspections should be directed



to the field Inspector or Permit Inspections Supervisor.

What if components of my project are built off-site? Fabrication off site, such as shop welding, in the fabricator's facility does not eliminate the requirement for special Inspections. If the Fabricator is an Approved Fabricator, they are required to submit a certificate of compliance at the completion of fabrication. If the Fabricator is not an approved fabricator an approved special inspector is required to inspect their work at the fabricators facility and submit a written approval for the fabrication, prior to approval by Bureau of Building (CBC 1704.2.5) Approved fabricator means an established and qualified person, firm and/or corporation, approved by the building official pursuant to Chapter 17 of the California Building Code. Fabricators and/or Special Inspectors approved by the City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety shall be considered approved.

My project also has a Special Inspection for Welding, what does this mean? Depending on the type of welding, the project will require a certified welder and a certified special inspector specific for welding as per [AWS D1.4 for special inspection for special inspector qualification](#).

Shop welding- If the Fabricator is an Approved Fabricator, they are required to submit a certificate of compliance at the completion of fabrication. If the Fabricator is not an approved fabricator an approved special inspector is required to inspect their work at the fabricators facility and submit a written approval for the fabrication, prior to approval by Bureau of Building (CBC 1704.2.5). Approved fabricator means an established and qualified person, firm and/or corporation, approved by the building official pursuant to Chapter 17 of the California Building Code. Fabricators and/or Special Inspectors approved by the City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety shall be considered approved.

Field Welding- Field Welding shall be continuous and shall be performed by a certified welder as per AWS D1.4 and inspected by a certified special inspector for welding as per AWS D1.4.

My project also has Structural Observation required, what does this mean? Where required, the owner or owner's representative shall employ a registered design professional to perform structural observations. This requirement is in addition to required Special inspections. Prior to the commencement of the structural observations, the observer shall submit a written statement identifying the frequency and extent of structural observations (CBC 1704.6)

My project has California Energy Code related Special Inspections, what does this mean? Where required, in instances where HERS verification, IAQ, or other Energy Code related special inspection is required, the owner or owner's representative shall employ a certified HERS rater to complete the required Energy Code related items contained in the project CF1R. Projects should be registered with either CalCERTS or CHEERS for verification of compliance with the Special Inspection requirements required by the California Energy Code.

My project has CDSR noted under Special Inspections, what does this mean? CDSR (Construction Debris Summary Report) is the City of Oakland's Recycling program for construction projects. Prior to FINAL of permit the permittee, project representative, owner, or contractor shall complete the City of Oakland Recycling report for Construction projects utilizing the GreenHalo system. Questions concerning the City of Oakland CDSR program, can be directed to Public Works Environmental Services Division via email recycling@oaklandca.gov

My permit inspector won't FINAL my project, even though I had Special Inspections and submitted the field reports? Prior to FINAL approval, the owner, permittee, or project representative shall provide the City of Oakland with a wet-signed/wet-stamped final special inspection letter from the project engineer. Special Inspections are not in lieu of required City of Oakland inspections performed and approved by a City of Oakland permit inspector.



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