

# Building Codes and Flame Retardants

Joe Charbonnet

Green Science Policy Institute



# How Building Codes Require FRs



Adoption Process

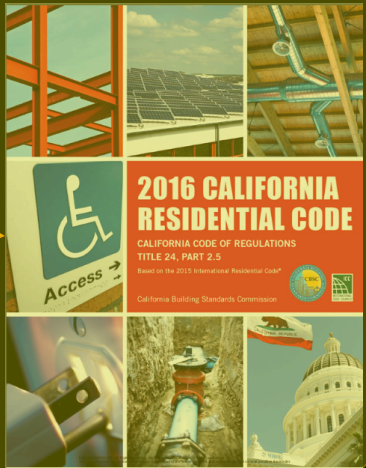
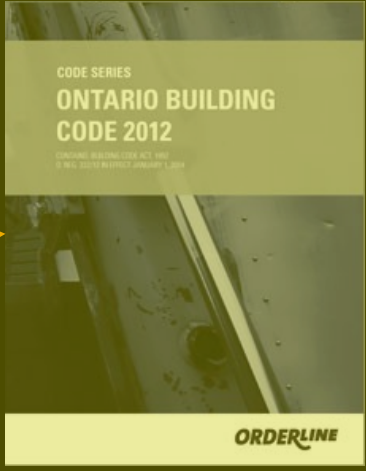
International "Model" Code  
International Code Council  
3 year renewal

Local Code Modifications

Local Codes  
Local Code Councils  
1-3 year renewal

Local Code Modifications

Force of law



# Building Insulation Standards

- All insulation must pass ASTM E84: Steiner tunnel test
- Not appropriate for "materials that melt, drip, or delaminate"
  - like foam plastic
- Foam plastics insulation requires FRs to pass
  - As long as standard exists, plastic insulation and FRs are intertwined



# California Code Reform

California State Fire Marshal proposes building code reforms that to allowing choice of FR-free insulation beneath slab



**Jan 2019:** CA Building Standards Commission unanimously adopts changes CA Residential and Building Codes to exempt insulation below a slab from flammability standards

# RB131-19

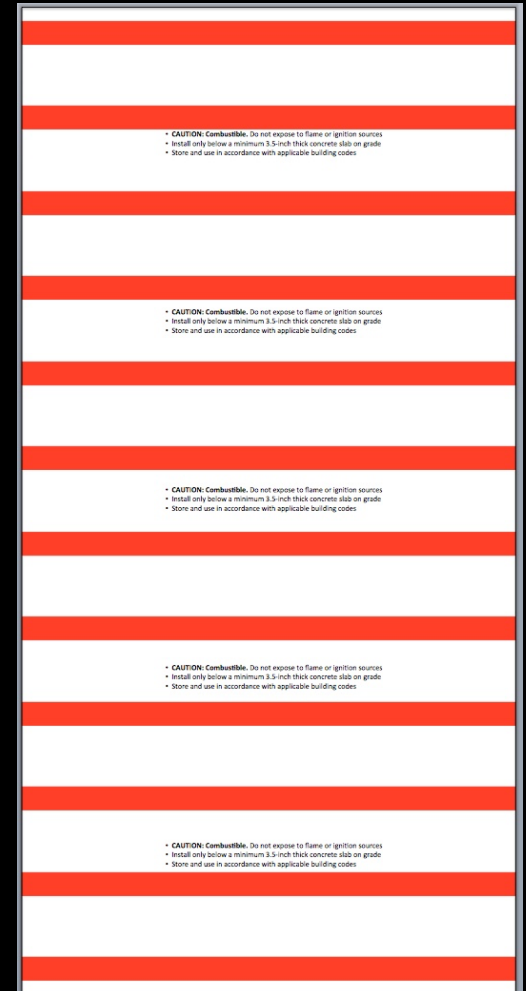
## Proposal aligns International “model” and CA Residential Codes

Committee disapproval: marking, potential misuse or inspection burden.

### Public Comment RICH-2:

- Marking language simplified and aligned with industry standards
- Red stripes clearly designate material for inspection an proper use

Final vote in early November



# Next Steps

- Continued dialog and education with building officials
- Continuous pressure on model codes
- Encourage material production/adoption

Supporters:

