

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-19-08

May 4, 2009

The following is being offered in response to your October 24, 2008 email request for a formal interpretation of the 2003 International Building Code portion of the 2005 State Building Code.

Question 1:

“What are the building requirements for attaching ceiling wires to fixtures in commercial buildings?”

Answer 1:

It is assumed that the term "fixtures" is referring to ceiling light fixtures. Section 1614.1, *Earthquake Load-General*, states in part that every structure, and portion thereof, shall as a minimum, be designed and constructed to resist the effects of earthquake motions and assigned a seismic design category as set forth in Section 1616.3. The design professional is required to determine the building's seismic design category. This determination is based on the requirements of the 2005 State Building Code which entails the 2003 International Building Code for the building's structure and also the seismic restraint requirements based on SEI/ASCE 7-02 (Structural Engineering Institute/American Society of Civil Engineers).

Question 2:

“Are they always required or just in the case of places of assembly?”

Answer 2:

The ceiling wires for ceiling light fixtures, specifically required for seismic code requirements, is based on the assigned seismic design category as determined by the design professional.