Fire Hazard Severity Zone Supplemental Checklist			
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City of Los Angeles – Department of Building & Safety

Fire Hazard Severity Zone Supplemental Checklist
2025 California Wildland-Urban Interface Code (CWUIC)

Plan Check No.:	
PCIS No.:	
Job Address:	
P.C. Engineer:	Email:
Phone:	Review Date:

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If you have any questions or need clarification on any plan check matters, please contact your plan check engineer and/or his or her supervisor.

Numbers in parentheses refer to Code Sections of the 2025 Edition of the California Wildland-Urban interface Code (CWUIC). LAMC code sections start with the number 91.

I. General

1. Buildings located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone or High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, as shown in local and State maps, shall comply with the provisions of the California Wildland-Urban Interface Code as amended by Chapter V, Article 7.1 of the LAMC. This shall include all buildings with residential, commercial, educational, institutional, or similar occupancy type use. (101.3.1)

2. In a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone or High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, new, relocated, or alterations and additions to existing buildings, shall comply with the provisions of the California Wildland-Urban Interface Code as amended by Chapter V, Article 7.1 of the LAMC. (101.5, 105.2)

3. New buildings, additions and/or alterations to existing buildings, and relocated buildings shall also comply with LAMC Section 91.7207 when located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. (91.7201.2, 91.7202)

4. New accessory buildings and miscellaneous structures (other than a habitable building) specified in CWUIC Section 504.11 shall comply only with the requirements of that section. (101.3.1, 504.11)

5. Obtain Fire Department Hydrant and Access Unit clearance for projects within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone or High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

II. Site Plan and Landscaping

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.

1. Site plan must include details such as topography, access road width and grade, landscape information, structure locations, existing or proposed overhead utilities, occupancy classifications, ignition-resistant construction types and roof classifications. (106.3)

2. When construction plans show any existing or proposed landscaping or vegetation, landscape plans shall be provided and provide the following information:

    a. 30-foot fuel management zones

    b. Identification of existing and proposed vegetation and irrigated areas

    c. A plant legend identifying all plants

    d. Identification of ground covering within the 30-foot zone

3. All new vegetation shall be fire-smart as defined in CWUIC Section 603.4. Revise plans to show that vegetation complies with fire-smart vegetation criteria. Non-fire-smart vegetation shall comply with CWUIC Section 603.4.2.1.

4. Shrubs shall not exceed 6-feet in height and 10-feet in diameter maximum. Shrubs shall be separated from other shrubs by 15-feet minimum and 30-feet from structures. Revise plans to show compliance with CWUIC Section 603.4.1.

5. Trees shall comply with CWUIC Section 603.4.2. Revise plans to show that within the 30-foot fuel management zone, planted trees at maturity must maintain 10-feet minimum separation from structures, tree crowns must maintain 10-feet separation and existing trees shall provide a minimum 10-foot separation from chimneys.

6. Where landscaping or vegetation, whether existing or proposed, is not shown on construction plans, a note shall be added to the plans to state: “Any existing and proposed vegetation, shrubs, trees, plants, landscaping and hardscape shall comply with the provision of the California Wildland-Urban Interface Code as amended by Chapter V, Article 7.1 in the LAMC.”

III. Ignition Resistant Construction and Materials

1. Where this code requires 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction, the fire-resistance rating of building elements, components, or assemblies shall be determined in accordance with the test procedures outlined in ASTM E119 or UL 263. (501.3)

    Exceptions:

    a. Elements based on the prescriptive provisions of Section 721 of the California Building Code.

    b. Elements based on calculation procedures in accordance with Section 722 of the California Building Code.

2. Materials required to be noncombustible shall be tested in accordance with ASTM E136 and pass the test. Alternatively, materials required to be noncombustible shall be tested in accordance with ASTM E2652 using the acceptance criteria prescribed by ASTM E136. (501.4)

IV. Roof Construction

1. Roofs shall have a roof assembly that complies with a Class A fire classification when tested in accordance with ASTM E108 or UL 790. (504.2)
2. The following assemblies are exempt from testing and shall be considered equivalent to the Class A fire classification: roof assemblies with coverings of brick, masonry, exposed concrete roof deck, ferrous or copper shingles or sheets, metal sheets and shingles, clay or concrete roof tile or slate installed on noncombustible decks or ferrous, copper, or metal sheets installed without a roof deck on noncombustible framing. (504.2)

3. No wood shake or wood shingle roof covering, including fire-retardant-treated, is permitted. (LAMC 91.1505.1, 91.7207.4, 91.5.902.2)

4. Where there is a void under the roof covering, it shall comply with the following:

    a. Where the roof covering is installed over a combustible deck and the roofing profile creates an airspace under the roof covering, the installation shall have a 72 lb. cap sheet complying with ASTM D3909 for “Asphalt Rolled Roofing” installed over the roof deck, bird stops shall be used at the eaves when the profile fits, to prevent debris from entering the eave. Hip and ridge caps shall be mudded in to prevent intrusion of fire or embers. (504.2.1.1)

    b. A listed and labeled roof underlayment that has been tested as part of the roof assembly in accordance with ASTM E108 or UL 790 for Class A fire classification shall be installed in accordance with the underlayment manufacturer’s installation instructions and listing. Bird stops shall be used at the eaves when the profile fits, to prevent debris from entering the eave. Hip and ridge caps shall be mudded in to prevent intrusion of fire or embers. (504.2.1.2)

5. Where provided, valley flashings shall be not less than 0.019-inch (0.48 mm) (No. 26 galvanized sheet gage) corrosion-resistant metal installed over a minimum 36-inch-wide (914 mm) underlayment consisting of one layer of 72-pound (32.4 kg) mineral-surfaced, nonperforated cap sheet complying with ASTM D3909 running the full length of the valley. (504.2.2)

6. The exposed underside of enclosed roof eaves and soffits shall be protected on the exposed underside by noncombustible materials, ignition-resistant building material, materials approved for not less than 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction on the exterior side as tested in accordance with ASTM E119 or UL 263, 2-inch nominal dimension lumber, 1-inch nominal fire-retardant-treated lumber, or 0.75-inch nominal fire-retardant-treated plywood, boxed-in roof eave soffit assemblies per 504.7.2 or SFM standard 12-7A-3. (504.3)

7. The exposed underside of open eaves or roof decks shall be protected on the exposed underside by noncombustible materials, ignition-resistant building material, materials approved for not less than 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction on the exterior side as tested in accordance with ASTM E119 or UL 263, 5/8-inch Type X gypsum applied on the underside of the roof deck or have the exterior portion of a 1-hour fire-resistance-rated exterior assembly, as tested in accordance with ASTM E119 or UL 263, applied to the

underside of the roof deck designed for exterior fire exposure, including assemblies using the gypsum panel and sheathing products listed in the Gypsum Association Fire Resistance Design Manual. (504.3.1)

8. The roof covering on buildings or structures in existence before the adoption of this code that are replaced or have 50 percent or more replaced in 12 months shall be replaced with a roof covering required for new construction in accordance with CWUIC Sections 504.2 and 504.2.1. All portions of a roof covering applied during an addition, alteration, or repair to an existing structure shall meet at least a Class A fire classification.

9. Skylights shall be constructed with multilayered glazed panels with at least one pane of tempered glass complying with Section 2406 of the California Building Code, glass block, glazing with a fire-protection rating of not less than 20 minutes when tested according to NFPA 257 or UL 9, or glazing meeting the performance requirements of SFM Standard 12-7A-2.

V. Gutters and Downspouts

1. Gutters and downspouts shall be constructed of noncombustible material. Gutters shall be provided with an approved means to prevent the accumulation of leaves and debris in the gutter. (504.4)

VI. Exterior Walls

1. Exterior walls of buildings or structures shall be constructed with one or more of the following methods: (504.5)

    a. 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction on the exterior side.

    b. Noncombustible materials.

    c. Heavy timber. Assembly of sawn lumber or glue-laminated wood with the smallest minimum nominal dimension of 4 inches (102 mm). Sawn or glue-laminated planks, splined, tongue-and-grove, or set close together and well spiked.

    d. Log wall construction.

    e. Wall assemblies that have been tested in accordance with the test procedures for a 10-minute direct flame contact exposure test outlined in ASTM E2707, with the conditions of acceptance shown in CWUIC Section 504.9.3.

    f. Wall assemblies that meet the performance criteria in accordance with the test procedures for a 10-minute direct flame contact exposure test outlined in SFM Standard 12-7A-1.

    g. Wall assemblies suitable for exterior fire exposure containing one layer of 5/8-inch (15.9 mm) Type X gypsum sheathing applied behind the exterior wall covering or cladding on the exterior side of the framing.

    h. Wall assemblies suitable for exterior fire exposure with a 1-hour fire-resistance rating, rated from the exterior side, as tested in accordance with ASTM E119 or UL 263.

i. Exterior wall covering complying with 504.5.2 (Exterior wall coverings) and 504.5.2.1 (Extent of Exterior wall covering).

2. Exterior wall covering shall comply with one or more of the following: (504.5.2)

   a. Noncombustible material.

   b. Ignition-resistant building material labeled for exterior use.

   c. Fire-retardant-treated wood labeled for exterior use and complying with the requirements of Section 2303.2 of the California Building Code.

3. Where provided, exterior wall coverings shall extend from the top of the foundation to the roof, and terminate at 2-inch (50.8 mm) nominal solid wood blocking between rafters at all roof overhangs, or in the case of enclosed eaves, terminate at the enclosure. A minimum of 6 inches (152 mm) of metal flashing or noncombustible material applied vertically on the exterior of the wall shall be installed at the ground, decking, and roof intersections. (504.5.2.1)

4. Exterior windows, window walls, and glazed doors shall be multilayered glazed panels with at least one pane of tempered glass complying with Section 2406 of the California Building Code, glass block, glazing with a fire-protection rating of not less than 20 minutes when tested according to NFPA 257 or UL 9, or glazing meeting the performance requirements of SFM Standard 12-7A-2. (504.8)

5. Exterior doors shall be of noncombustible construction, solid-core wood not less than 1.75 inches thick, have a fire protection rating of not less than 20 minutes when tested according to NFPA 252, UL 10B or UL 10C, constructed of solid core wood that complies with stiles and rails not less than 1-3/8 inches or raised panels not less than 1-1/4 inches, or have exterior surface or cladding tested to meet the performance requirements of SFM Standard 12-7A-1. (504.9)

6. Windows within doors and glazed doors shall be in accordance with CWUIC Section 504.8.

7. Exterior garage doors shall resist the intrusion of embers by preventing gaps between doors and door openings, at the bottom, sides, and tops of doors, from exceeding 1/8 inch (3.2 mm). Gaps between doors and door openings shall be controlled by weather-stripping, door overlaps, and/or garage door jambs and headers covered with metal flashing. (504.9)

8. Automatic garage door openers for vehicle doors serving a residential building shall be equipped with a battery backup function. (504.9.1)

9. A minimum of 6 inches (152 mm) of metal flashing or noncombustible material applied vertically on the exterior of the wall shall be installed at the ground, decking, and roof intersections. (504.5.1)

VII. Underfloor Enclosures, Decks, and Projections

1. A Buildings or structures shall have underfloor areas enclosed to the ground with exterior walls in accordance with CWUIC Section 504.5. (504.6, 91.7207.1)

2. All utilities, pipes, furnaces, water heaters or other mechanical devices located in an exposed under-floor area of a residential building shall be enclosed with material as required for one-hour fire-resistive construction. Adequate covered access openings for servicing such utilities shall be provided as required by appropriate codes. (91.7207.2)

3. The underside of projections or the underside of the exposed underfloor shall be enclosed to grade by one or more of the following: (504.7.1)

    a. Noncombustible material.

    b. Ignition-resistant building material labeled for exterior use and shall meet the requirements of CWUIC Section 503.2.

    c. Fire-retardant-treated wood labeled for exterior use and shall meet the requirements of California Building Code Section 2303.2.

    d. Materials approved for not less than 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction on the exterior side, as tested in accordance with ASTM E119 or UL 263.

    e. One layer of 5/8-inch (15.9 mm) Type X gypsum sheathing applied behind an exterior covering on the underside of the floor projection.

    f. The exterior portion of a 1-hour fire-resistance-rated exterior assembly, as tested in accordance with ASTM E119 or UL 263, applied to the underside of the floor, including assemblies using the gypsum panel and sheathing products listed in the Gypsum Association Fire Resistance Design Manual.

    g. The underside of a floor assembly that meets the performance criteria in CWUIC Section 504.7.2 when tested in accordance with the test procedures set forth in ASTM E2957.

    h. The underside of a floor assembly that meets the performance criteria in accordance with the test procedures set forth in SFM Standard 12-7A-3.

4. The walking surface material of decks, porches, balconies and stairs shall be constructed with any of the following materials: (504.7.3.2)

    a. Material that complies with the performance requirements of CWUIC Section 504.7.3.3 when tested in accordance with ASTM E2632 and ASTM E2726.

    b. Ignition-resistant building material that complies with the performance requirements of CWUIC Section 503.2.4.

    c. Material that complies with the performance requirements of both SFM Standard 12-7A-4 and CWUIC Section 503.2.4.

    d. Noncombustible material.

e. Any material that complies with the performance requirements of SFM Standard 12-7A-4A and any attached exterior wall covering that is noncombustible or ignition-resistant building materials.

f. Any material that complies with the performance requirements of CWUIC Section 504.7.3.4 when tested in accordance with ASTM E2632 and any attached exterior wall covering that is noncombustible or ignition-resistant building materials.

5. A minimum of a 6-inch (150 mm) metal flashing, applied vertically on the exterior of the wall, shall be installed at all deck-to-wall intersections.

VIII. Vents

1. Where provided, ventilation openings for enclosed attics, gable ends, ridge ends, under eaves and cornices, enclosed eave soffit spaces, enclosed rafter spaces formed where ceilings are applied directly to the underside of roof rafters, underfloor ventilation, foundations and crawl spaces, or any other opening intended to permit ventilation, either in a horizontal or vertical surface, shall be in accordance with CWUIC Section 504.10.1 or CWUIC Section 504.10.2 to resist building ignition from the intrusion of burning embers and flame through the ventilation openings. (504.10, 91.7207.3)

2. Ventilation openings shall be fully covered with Wildfire Flame and Ember Resistant vents approved and listed by the California State Fire Marshal, or WUI vents, tested in accordance with ASTM E2886. (504.10.1)

3. Vents that are installed on a sloped roof, such as dormer vents, shall comply with all of the following: (504.10.2)

    a. Vents shall be covered with a mesh where the dimensions of the mesh therein shall be a minimum of 1/16 inch (1.6 mm) and shall not exceed 1/8 inch (3.2 mm) in diameter.

    b. The vent and mesh material shall be noncombustible.

    c. The vent and mesh material shall be corrosion resistant.

4. Gable-end and dormer vents shall be located not less than 10 feet (3048 mm) from lot lines. Underfloor ventilation openings shall be located as close to grade as possible. (504.10.3)

IX. Accessory Buildings

1. Accessory buildings not intended for human occupancy, as defined in CWUIC Section 202, shall comply with the following: (504.11)

    a. Miscellaneous and accessory buildings of any size, when separated from an applicable building on the same lot by a distance of less than 3 feet (914 mm), shall be constructed of noncombustible materials or ignition-resistant building materials as described in CWUIC Section 503.2.4.

    b. Accessory buildings that are greater than 120 square feet (11.15 m^2) in size and separated from an applicable building on the same lot by a distance of 3 feet (914 mm) or more but less than 50 feet

(15 240 mm) shall be constructed of noncombustible materials or of ignition-resistant building materials as described in CWUIC Section 503.2.4.

c. Where required by the code official, accessory buildings 120 square feet (11.15 m^2) or less and separated from an applicable building on the same lot by a distance of 3 feet (914 mm) or more but less than 50 feet (15 240 mm) shall be constructed of noncombustible materials or of ignition-resistant building materials as described in CWUIC Section 503.2.4.

d. Where required by the code official, miscellaneous structures that require a permit and are separated from an applicable building on the same lot by a distance of 3 feet (914 mm) or more but less than 50 feet (15 240 mm) shall be constructed of noncombustible materials or of ignition-resistant building materials as described in CWUIC Section 503.2.4.

2. Roof assemblies and roof coverings of accessory buildings required to be constructed entirely of noncombustible materials or of ignition-resistant building materials shall comply with CWUIC Sections 504.2 and 504.2.1. Roofs shall have a roofing assembly installed in accordance with its listing and the manufacturer's installation instructions. Roof assemblies in Fire Hazard Severity Zones shall comply with a Class A fire classification when tested in accordance with ASTM E108 or UL 790.

3. Decks shall comply with the requirements of CWUIC Section 504.7.3.

4. Awnings and canopies shall comply with the requirements of Section 3105 of the California Building Code.

X. Defensible Space (within the VHFHSZ only)

1. All parcels, within the VHFHSZ, shall provide a minimum 30-foot (9144 mm) setback for all buildings from property lines and the center of a road, except where an alternative method to reduce structure-to-structure ignition by incorporating features such as, but not limited to the following are provided: (608.2)

    a. Noncombustible block walls or fences

    b. Noncombustible material extending 5 feet (1524 mm) horizontally from the furthest extent of the building

    c. Hardscape landscaping

    d. A reduction of exposed windows on the side of the structure with setback less than 30 feet (9144 mm)

    e. The most protective requirements in Chapter 5

ADDITIONAL CORRECTIONS	CODE SECTION