

## Alternative Materials and Methods Requests

### 411.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a procedure for receiving and processing requests for the use of Alternative Materials and Methods (AMM) in accordance with the Fire Code § 104.9.

#### 411.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

**Alternative materials and methods (AMM) request** - A request from a permit applicant to deviate in some manner from the requirements of the Fire Code, consisting of the applicant and project information; a summary of the issue and the solution being proposed; identification of the specific Fire Code reference and the intent of the code; a description of why the standard requirements are not possible, feasible or desirable; and a detailed description of the alternatives being proposed to mitigate the deficiency or code requirement.

### 411.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Fresno County Fire Protection District that requests for AMM shall be evaluated by the Fire Marshal or the authorized designee for compliance with the intent of the associated Fire Code.

### 411.3 PROCEDURE

The following procedures have been established to assist district members in determining whether a proposed AMM is at least equivalent to that prescribed by the Fire Code in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability and safety.

#### 411.3.1 PROJECT INFORMATION

For commercial, multi-family residential and residential tract projects, the applicant shall provide the following written information in addition to the plans necessary to evaluate the project:

- (a) Relevant project information, including:
  1. The project name, address, contact person and telephone number.
  2. The owner's name, address and telephone number.
  3. Other specific information identifying the project as required (e.g., development permit type, tract, lot number).
- (b) The Fire Code section or a reference to the specific requirement for which the AMM is requested.
- (c) The alternative fire protection measures that will be taken as part of the AMM proposal and how they establish equivalency to those prescribed in the code.
- (d) Any additional information identified by the Fresno County Fire Protection District.

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### 411.3.2 SUBMITTAL PROCESS

- (a) One copy of the AMM proposal and other supporting information is required to be submitted to the Fresno County Fire Protection District. Applicable fees due, in the amount indicated by the fee schedule currently in effect, must be paid upon submittal of the AMM proposal.
- (b) AMM requests will be evaluated by the Fire Marshal or the authorized designee . All such requests are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Approval of an AMM request is based upon several factors, including, but not limited to, the level of equivalency achieved, the effect of the AMM on fire and emergency response and site conditions. All evaluations will be performed in the context of the specific project being reviewed.
- (c) If the AMM proposal provides an equivalent level of protection, considering all related conditions pertaining to the project, the Fire Marshal or the authorized designee will issue a written response granting approval. Such approval may be conditional upon implementation of additional requirements listed in the AMM approval that were not part of the original AMM proposal. Approval is granted only for the specific project under review and the conditions for approval shall not be construed as applicable to any other project.
- (d) In the event the AMM proposal does not provide an equivalent level of protection, the request will be denied and a written denial will be issued.
  - 1. Should the applicant submit a different AMM request for the same project or choose to revise and resubmit the previously denied request, additional AMM fees will apply.
  - 2. To facilitate the evaluation process, the applicant should include any previously denied AMM proposals when submitting a revised AMM request.
- (e) Upon completion of the evaluation, the written AMM approval or denial and a copy of the applicant's AMM proposal should be made available for pick up at the location specified by the Fresno County Fire Protection District. Should evaluation of the AMM proposal require time and resources beyond the standard time allotted for this activity, additional time and materials fees may be assessed. Any additional fees assessed must be paid when the applicant picks up the AMM approval or denial.
- (f) The approved AMM proposal and written responses should be copied on the plans prior to plan approval. A copy of the AMM proposal and response should be kept at the project site at all times. This documentation may be required for review by the Fire Marshal or the authorized designee.