## LARGE FAMILY DAY CARE HOMES GUIDE

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this guide is to help large family day care home operators understand and comply with applicable fire and life safety requirements. It provides clear guidance for inspections, emergency planning, fire protection systems, means of egress, and other safety measures intended to protect children, staff, and residents. This guide is designed to promote consistent compliance, support a successful inspection process, and maintain a safe environment for everyone who occupies the home.

### DEFINITIONS

***Day Care*** - The care of persons during any period of a 24-hour day where permanent sleeping accommodations are not provided.

***Exit*** - Means a continuous unobstructed means of egress to a public way and includes gates.

***Family Day-Care Home*** - A home that regularly provides care, protection and supervision for 14 or fewer children, in the provider's own home, for periods of less than 24 hours per day, while the parents or guardians are away, and is either a *large family day-care home* or a *small family day-care home*.

***Large Family Day-Care Home*** - A provider's own home which is licensed to provide day care for periods less than 24 hours per day for nine to 14 persons, including children under the age of 10 years who reside at the home.

***Small Family Day-Care Home*** - A home which provides family day-care to eight or fewer children, including children under the age of 10 years who reside at the home, in the provider's own home, for periods of less than 24 hours per day. Small family day-care homes are exempted from state fire and life safety regulations other than those state and local standards applicable to Group R-3 occupancies (single family homes) by the California Health and Safety Code, Section 13143 (b).

### REQUIREMENTS

**Means of Egress:**

- ☐ ***Number of Exits Required.*** Every story or basement of a large family day-care home shall be provided with two exits which are remotely located from each other… CBC 1006.2.2.7

- ☐ ***Dimension Requirements for Exits.*** Every required exit shall be of a size to permit the installation of a door that provides not less than 32 inches (813 mm) in clear width and not less than 6 feet 8 inches (2,032 mm) in height… CBC 1006.2.2.7

- ☐ ***Use of Sliding Glass Doors.*** A manually operated horizontal sliding door with 32 inches (813 mm) in clear width and not less than 6 feet 8 inches in height may be used as one of the required exits… CBC 1006.2.2.7

- ☐ ***Operation of Exit Doors.*** Exit doors, including manually operated horizontal sliding doors, shall be operable from the inside without the use of a key or any special knowledge or effort. This requirement can be satisfied with the use of interconnected hardware on the main exit door.

Interconnected hardware simultaneously retracts both bolt and latch, allowing a single motion egress… CBC 1010.2.2

☐ ***Exiting Above the First Story.*** Rooms used for day-care purposes *shall not* be located above the first story.
**Exception:** Buildings equipped with an automatic sprinkler system throughout and which have at least one of the required exits providing access directly to the exterior. NFPA 13R may be used in large family day-care homes. The sprinkler omissions of NFPA 13R shall not apply unless approved by the enforcing agency…. CBC 1006.2.2.7

☐ ***Means of Egress.*** All dwellings shall be provided with a continuous and unobstructed path of vertical and horizontal egress travel from all portions of the dwelling to the exterior of the dwelling at the required egress door without requiring travel through a garage… CFC 1003.6

☐ ***Floors and landings at exterior doors.*** There shall be a landing or floor on each side of each exterior door. The width of each landing shall not be less than the door served. Every landing shall have a minimum dimension of 36 inches (914 mm) measured in the direction of travel. Exterior landings shall be permitted to have a slope not to exceed $^{1}/_{4}$ unit vertical in 12 units horizontal (2-percent)… CFC 1010.1.4

☐ ***Access to the Public Way.*** All dwellings shall have a continuous, unobstructed, and accessible path of travel to the public way; with a minimum dimension of 32 inches (813 mm) from both approved exits… CBC 1006.2.2.7, CBC 1028.5

☐ ***Side gates.*** Gates that are part of the exit path shall be provided with single operation hardware. The door handles, pulls, latches, locks, and other operating devices shall be installed 34 inches (864 mm) minimum and 48 inches (1219 mm) maximum above the finished floor. An example is a string with a handle that is attached to the normal gate latch… CBC 1010.2.3

**Private Garages:**

☐ ***Fire Separation Wall.*** The private garage shall be separated from the dwelling unit and its attic area by means of a minimum ½ - inch (12.7 mm) gypsum board applied to the garage side, from all habitable rooms above the garage or carport not less than 5/8 inch type X gypsum board or equivalent… CBC 406.3.2.1

☐ ***Door Opening Requirements.*** Door openings between a private garage and the dwelling unit shall be equipped with either solid wood doors or solid or honeycomb core steel doors not less than 1 $^{3}/_{8}$ inches (34.9 mm) thick or doors or 20-minute fire-rated doors, equipped with a self-closing and self-latching device in compliance with CBC 406.3.2.1.

☐ ***Door Operations.*** Door openings between a private garage and the dwelling unit shall be self-closing and self-latching… CBC 406.3.2.1

☐ ***Garage Ducts.*** Ducts in a private garage and ducts penetrating the walls or ceilings separating the dwelling unit from the garage, including its attic area, shall be constructed of a sheet metal of not less than 0.019 inch (0.48mm) in thickness and shall have no openings into the garage… CBC 406.3.2.2

- ☐ **Smoke Alarms.** A smoke detector shall be located in each sleeping room and at a point centrally located in the corridor or area giving access to each separate sleeping area. When the dwelling unit has more than one story, and in dwellings with basements, a smoke alarm shall be located on each story and basement… CFC 907.2.11.2

- ☐ **Smoke alarms** shall be tested monthly. Smoke alarms shall be State Fire Marshal approved and listed single station residential type… CBC 455.3

**Alarms:**

- ☐ **Manual Alarm Device**. Every large ¬family day-¬care home shall be provided with at least one manual fire alarm box at a location approved by the West Sacramento Fire Department (WSFD). Such device shall actuate a fire alarm signal, which shall be audible throughout the facility at a minimum level of 15 dB above ambient noise level. These devices need not be interconnected to any other fire alarm device, have a control panel or be electrically supervised or provided with emergency power. Such device or devices shall be attached to the structure and must be a device that is listed and approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal… CFC 907.2.6.5
    - See example below, pull station (manual fire alarm box) and horn-strobe to be listed by the California State Fire Marshal.



☐ **Carbon Monoxide Alarms.** Existing dwellings or sleeping units that have attached garages or fuel-burning appliances shall be provided with a carbon monoxide alarm. Carbon monoxide alarms shall be listed and approved by the California State Fire Marshal…. CFC R311.3/ CFC 915

**Miscellaneous:**

☐ ***Portable Fire Extinguisher.*** A portable fire extinguisher having a minimum 2A10BC rating shall be mounted in an accessible location no higher than five (5) feet from the floor. The fire extinguisher is required to be visually inspected on a monthly basis. The fire extinguisher shall be serviced annually by a State Fire Marshal-licensed concern and bear a current service tag… CBC 455.4

☐ ***Location of Portable Fire Extinguisher.*** Portable fire extinguishers shall be placed in a location approved by the WSFD.

☐ ***Special Hazards.*** Every unenclosed gas fired water heater or furnace which is within the area used for childcare in a large family day-care home shall be protected in such a way as to prevent children from contacting those appliances… CBC 455.7

**Electrical:**

☐ ***Extension cords.*** Extension cords shall not be used in place of permanent wiring and shall be used only with portable appliances…. CFC 603.6