

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF CODES AND STANDARDS**

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**December 29, 2006**

**INFORMATION BULLETIN 2006-05 (MH)**

**TO: City and County Building Officials  
Commercial Modular Dealers  
Manufactured Housing Dealers  
Division Staff**

**SUBJECT: REQUIREMENTS FOR MANUFACTURED HOMES, MOBILEHOMES  
AND COMMERCIAL MODULARS INSTALLED ON FOUNDATION  
SYSTEMS; HCD MH 433 FORMS**

This Information Bulletin replaces Information Bulletin MH 86-11 dated May 20, 1986. Section 18551 of the California Health and Safety Code (HSC) was added by Assembly Bill 887, Chapter 1160, in 1979 effective January 1, 1980, and subsequently amended several times. This section provides for placement of manufactured homes, mobilehomes, and commercial modulars on foundation systems and requires specific fees, forms, documents and items to be used, transmitted, and recorded in conjunction with the approved installation. The applicable provisions of the HSC can be found at the end of this bulletin. Or, you may visit the [California Law website](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/home.xhtml) located at <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/home.xhtml> to reference applicable laws.

Units installed on foundation systems pursuant to HSC Sections 18551, 18551.1, and 18555 are not subject to registration by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). At the point of installation acceptance, the unit becomes a fixture or improvement to the real property to which it is attached. Once the Certificate of Occupancy is recorded, the unit is considered real property, it is subject to local property taxation, and future title transfers are via deed. As a result, no title will be issued by HCD if the installation is in conjunction with an original purchase of a new unit. Any outstanding titles on used units must be surrendered before the installation process is completed.

The appropriate forms to use are:

- Notice of Manufactured Home (Mobilehome) or Commercial Modular Installation on a Foundation System ([HCD MH 433A](http://www.hcd.ca.gov/building-standards/manufactured-modular-factory-built/docs/HCD433A.pdf)). Website link to form: <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/building-standards/manufactured-modular-factory-built/docs/HCD433A.pdf>

- Notice to Assessor ([HCD MH 433B](https://www.hcd.ca.gov/building-standards/manufactured-modular-factory-built/docs/433B.pdf)). Website link to form: <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/building-standards/manufactured-modular-factory-built/docs/433B.pdf>
- Notice of Manufactured Home (Mobilehome) Conversion to a Fixture Improvement to Real Property ([HCD MH 433C](https://www.hcd.ca.gov/building-standards/manufactured-modular-factory-built/docs/433C.pdf)). Website link to form: <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/building-standards/manufactured-modular-factory-built/docs/433C.pdf>

Questions regarding this Information Bulletin may be directed to the Manufactured Housing Program at (800) 952-8356.

Kim Strange  
Deputy Director

Attachment

**APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF LAW – CALIFORNIA HEALTH and SAFETY CODE:**

**Section 18551.** The department shall establish regulations for manufactured home, mobilehome, and commercial coach foundation systems that shall be applicable throughout the state. When established, these regulations supersede any ordinance enacted by any city, county, or city and county applicable to manufactured home, mobilehome, and commercial coach foundation systems. The department may approve alternate foundation systems to those provided by regulation where the department is satisfied of equivalent performance. The department shall document approval of alternate systems by its stamp of approval on the plans and specifications for the alternate foundation system. A manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach may be installed on a foundation system as either a fixture or improvement to the real property, in accordance with subdivision (a), or a manufactured home or mobilehome may be installed on a foundation system as a chattel, in accordance with subdivision (b).

(a) Installation of a manufactured home, mobile home, or commercial coach as a fixture or improvement to the real property shall comply with all of the following:

(1) Prior to installation of a manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach on a foundation system, the manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach owner or a licensed contractor shall obtain a building permit from the appropriate enforcement agency. To obtain a permit, the owner or contractor shall provide the following:

(A) Written evidence acceptable to the enforcement agency that the manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach owner owns, holds title to, or is purchasing the real property where the mobilehome is to be installed on a foundation system. A lease held by the manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach owner, that is transferable, for the exclusive use of the real property where the manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach is to be installed, shall be deemed to comply with this paragraph if the lease is for a term of 35 years or more, or if less than 35 years, for a term mutually agreed upon by the lessor and lessee, and the term of the lease is not revocable at the discretion of the lessor except for cause, as described in subdivisions 2 to 5, inclusive, of Section 1161 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

(B) Written evidence acceptable to the enforcement agency that the registered owner owns the manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach free of any liens or encumbrances or, in the event that the legal owner is not the registered owner, or liens and encumbrances exist on the manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach, written evidence provided by the legal owner and any lienors or encumbrancers that the legal owner, lienor, or encumbrancer consents to the attachment of the manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach upon the discharge of any personal lien, that may be conditioned upon the satisfaction by the registered owner of the obligation secured by the lien.

(C) Plans and specifications required by department regulations or a department-approved alternate for the manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach foundation system.

(D) The manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach manufacturer's installation instructions, or plans and specifications signed by a California licensed architect or engineer covering the installation of an individual manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach in the absence of the manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach manufacturer's instructions.

(E) Building permit fees established by ordinance or regulation of the appropriate enforcement agency.

(F) A fee payable to the department in the amount of eleven dollars (\$11) for each transportable section of the manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach, that shall be transmitted to the department at the time the certificate of occupancy is issued with a copy of the building permit and any other information concerning the manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach which the department may prescribe on forms provided by the department.

(2) (A) On the same day that the certificate of occupancy for the manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach is issued by the appropriate enforcement agency, the enforcement agency shall record with the county recorder of the county where the real property is situated, that the manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach has been installed upon, a document naming the owner of the real property, describing the real property with certainty, and stating that a manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach has been affixed to that real property by installation on a foundation system pursuant to this subdivision.

(B) When recorded, the document referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be indexed by the county recorder to the named owner and shall be deemed to give constructive notice as to its contents to all persons thereafter dealing with the real property.

(C) Fees received by the department pursuant to subparagraph (F) of paragraph (1) shall be deposited in the Mobilehome-Manufactured Home Revolving Fund established under subdivision (a) of Section 18016.5.

(3) The department shall adopt regulations providing for the cancellation of registration of a manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach that is permanently attached to the ground on a foundation system pursuant to subdivision (a). The regulations shall provide for the surrender to the department of the certificate of title and other indicia of registration. For the purposes of this subdivision, permanent affixation to a foundation system shall be deemed to have occurred on the day a certificate of occupancy is issued to the manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach owner and the document referred to in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) is recorded. Cancellation shall be effective as of that date and the department shall enter the cancellation on its records upon receipt of a copy of the certificate of occupancy. This subdivision shall not be construed to affect the application of existing laws, or the department's regulations or procedures with regard to the cancellation of registration, except as to the requirement therefore and the effective date thereof.

(4) Once installed on a foundation system in compliance with this subdivision, a manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach shall be deemed a fixture and a real property improvement to the real property to which it is affixed. Physical removal of

the manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach shall thereafter be prohibited without the consent of all persons or entities who, at the time of removal, have title to any estate or interest in the real property to which the manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach is affixed.

(5) For the purposes of this subdivision:

(A) "Physical removal" shall include, without limitation, the unattaching of the manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach from the foundation system, except for temporary purposes of repair or improvement thereto.

(B) Consent to removal shall not be required from the owners of rights-of-way or easements or the owners of subsurface rights or interests in or to minerals, including, but not limited to, oil, gas, or other hydrocarbon substances.

(6) At least 30 days prior to a legal removal of the manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach from the foundation system and transportation away from the real property to which it was formerly affixed, the manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach owner shall notify the department and the county assessor of the intended removal of the manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach. The department shall require written evidence that the necessary consents have been obtained pursuant to this section and shall require application for either a transportation permit or manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach registration, as the department may decide is appropriate to the circumstances. Immediately upon removal, as defined in this section, the manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach shall be deemed to have become personal property and subject to all laws governing the same as applicable to a manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach.

(b) The installation of a manufactured home or a mobilehome on a foundation system as chattel shall be in accordance with Section 18613 and shall be deemed to meet or exceed the requirements of Section 18613.4. This subdivision shall not be construed to affect the application of sales and use or property taxes. No provisions of this subdivision are intended, nor shall they be construed, to affect the ownership interest of any owner of a manufactured home or mobilehome.

(c) Once installed on a foundation system, a manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach shall be subject to state enforced health and safety standards for manufactured homes, mobilehomes, or commercial coaches enforced pursuant to Section 18020.

(d) No local agency shall require that any manufactured home, mobilehome, or commercial coach currently on private property be placed on a foundation system.

(e) No local agency shall require that any manufactured home or mobilehome located in a mobilehome park be placed on a foundation system.

(f) No local agency shall require, as a condition for the approval of the conversion of a rental mobilehome park to a resident-owned park, including, but not limited to, a subdivision, cooperative, or condominium for mobilehomes, that any manufactured home or mobilehome located there be placed on a foundation system. This subdivision shall only apply to the conversion of a rental mobilehome park that has been operated as a rental mobilehome park for a minimum period of five years.

**Section 18551.1.** (a) Any mobilehome park, constructed on or after January 1, 1982, may be constructed in a manner that will enable manufactured homes, mobilehomes, and multiunit manufactured housing sited in the park to be placed upon a foundation system, and manufactured homes, mobilehomes, and multiunit manufactured housing sited in the park may

be placed upon foundation systems, subject to the requirements of Section 18551.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), any manufactured home, mobilehome, or multiunit manufactured housing originally sited on or after January 1, 1985, in a mobilehome park constructed prior to January 1, 1982, may be placed upon a foundation system, subject to the requirements of Section 18551.

(c) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) and (b), any manufactured home, mobilehome, or multiunit manufactured housing sited in a mobilehome park which is converted, or in the process of being converted, to resident ownership on or after January 1, 1992, may be placed on a foundation system, subject to the requirements of Section 18551, and with the approval of the ownership of the park.

(d) With respect to any manufactured home, mobilehome, or multiunit manufactured home sited in a mobilehome park under subdivision (a), (b), or (c), no single structure shall exceed two stories in height.

(e) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) and (b), the installation of a manufactured home, mobilehome, or multiunit manufactured housing within a mobilehome park pursuant to Section 18551 shall be subject to prior written approval by the ownership of the mobilehome park.

(f) The number of dwelling units per structure for any manufactured home or mobilehome consisting of two or more dwelling units, or multiunit manufactured housing, sited in a mobilehome park on or after January 1, 2003, shall conform to a zone designation or conditional use permit that currently applies to the park or an amended or new zone designation or conditional use permit that is additionally granted to the park.

**Section 18555.** (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the registered owner of a manufactured home or mobilehome in a mobilehome park, converted or proposed to be converted to a resident-owned subdivision, cooperative, condominium, or nonprofit corporation formed pursuant to Section 11010.8 of the Business and Professions Code, may, if the registered owner is also a participant in the resident ownership, apply for voluntary conversion of the manufactured home or mobilehome to a fixture and improvement to the underlying real property without compliance with subdivision (a) of Section 18551.

(b) The resident ownership or proposed resident ownership of a mobilehome park converted or proposed to be converted to a resident-owned subdivision, cooperative, condominium, or nonprofit corporation formed pursuant to Section 11010.8 of the Business and Professions Code, shall, on behalf of registered owners of manufactured homes and mobilehomes making application pursuant to subdivision (a), establish with an escrow agent an escrow account. All of the following shall be deposited into the escrow account:

(1) A copy of the registered owner's application, on a form, provided by the department, that shall be substantially similar to forms presently used to record the installation of manufactured homes and mobilehomes on foundation systems pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 18551. In addition, by signature of an authorized representative, the form shall contain provisions for certification by the resident ownership of the mobilehome park converted or proposed to be converted to a subdivision, cooperative, or condominium that the applicant is a participant in the resident-ownership.

(2) The certificate of title, the current registration card, decals, and other indicia of registration of the manufactured home or mobilehome.

(3) In the absence of a certificate of title for the manufactured home or mobilehome, written evidence from lienholders on record with the department that the lienholders consent to conversion of the manufactured home or mobilehome to a fixture and improvement to the underlying real property upon the discharge of any personal lien, that may be conditioned upon the satisfaction by the registered owner of the obligation secured by the lien.

(4) A fee payable to the department in the amount of twenty-two dollars (\$22), for each transportable section of the manufactured home or mobilehome, that shall be transmitted to the department upon close of escrow with a copy of the form recorded with the county recorder's office pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (c). Fees received by the department pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the Mobilehome-Manufactured Home Revolving Fund established under subdivision (a) of Section 18016.5 for administration of Part 2 (commencing with Section 18000).

(5) Escrow instructions describing the terms and conditions of compliance with this section, the requirements of the department, and other applicable terms and conditions.

(c) If the manufactured home or mobilehome is subject to local property taxation, and subject to registration under Part 2 (commencing with Section 18000), the escrow officer shall forward to the tax collector of the county where the used manufactured home or mobilehome is located, a written demand for a tax clearance certificate if no liability exists, or a conditional tax clearance certificate if a tax liability exists, to be provided on a form prescribed by the Controller. The conditional tax clearance certificate shall state the amount of the tax liability due, if any, and the final date that amount may be paid out of the proceeds of escrow before a further tax liability may be incurred.

(1) Within five working days of receipt of the written demand for a conditional tax clearance certificate or a tax clearance certificate, the county tax collector shall forward the conditional tax clearance certificate or a tax clearance certificate showing that no tax liability exists to the requesting escrow officer. In the event the tax clearance certificate's or conditional tax clearance certificate's final due date expires within 30 days of the date of issuance, an additional conditional tax clearance certificate or a tax clearance certificate shall be completed that has a final due date of at least 30 days beyond the date of issuance.

(2) If the tax collector to whom the written demand for a tax clearance certificate or a conditional tax clearance certificate was made fails to comply with that demand within

30 days from the date the demand was mailed, the escrow officer may close the escrow and submit a statement of facts certifying that the written demand was made on the tax collector and the tax collector failed to comply with that written demand within 30 days. This statement of facts shall be accepted by the department and all other parties to the conversion in lieu of a conditional tax clearance certificate or a tax clearance certificate, as prescribed by subdivision (a) of Section 18092.7, and the conversion of the manufactured home or mobilehome to a fixture and improvement to the underlying real property may be completed.

(3) The escrow officer may satisfy the terms of the conditional tax clearance certificate by paying the amount of tax liability shown on the form by the tax collector out of the proceeds of escrow on or before the date indicated on the form and by certifying in the space provided on the form that all terms and conditions of the conditional tax clearance certificate have been complied with.

(d) (1) On the same or following day that the escrow required by subdivision (b) is closed, the escrow agent shall record, or cause to be recorded, with the county recorder of the county where the converted manufactured home or mobilehome is situated, the form prescribed by paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) stating that the manufactured home or mobilehome has been converted to a fixture and improvement to the underlying real property pursuant to this section.

(2) When recorded, the form referred to in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) shall be indexed by the county recorder to the named owner of the converted manufactured home or mobilehome, and shall be deemed to give constructive notice as to its contents to all persons thereafter dealing with the real property.

(e) The department shall cancel the registration of a manufactured home or mobilehome converted to a fixture and improvement to the underlying real property pursuant to this section. For the purposes of this subdivision, conversion of the manufactured home to a fixture and improvement to the underlying real property shall be deemed to have occurred on the day a form referred to in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) is recorded. Cancellation shall be effective as of that date, and the department shall enter the cancellation on its records upon receipt of a copy of the form recorded pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (c), the certificate of title, the current registration card, other indicia of registration, and fees prescribed by this section. This subdivision shall not be construed to affect the application of existing laws, or the department's regulations or procedures with regard to the cancellation of registration, except as to the requirement therefor and the effective date thereof.

(f) Once the form referred to in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) has been recorded, a manufactured home or mobilehome shall be deemed a fixture and improvement to the underlying real property described with certainty on the form. Physical removal of the manufactured home or mobilehome from the real property where it has become a fixture and improvement pursuant to this section shall thereafter be prohibited without the consent of all persons or entities who, at the time of removal, have title to any estate or interest in the real property where the manufactured home or mobilehome has become a fixture and improvement.

(g) For the purposes of this section:



(1) "Physical removal" shall include, without limitation, the manufactured home, mobilehome, or any transportable section thereof, from the real property where it has become a fixture and improvement.

(2) Consent to removal shall not be required from the owners of rights-of-way or easements or the owners of subsurface rights or interests in or to minerals, including, but not limited to, oil, gas, or other hydrocarbon substances.

(h) At least 30 days prior to a legal removal of the manufactured home or mobilehome from the real property where it has become a fixture and improvement and transportation away from the real property, the manufactured home or mobilehome owner shall notify the department and the county assessor of the intended removal of the manufactured home or mobilehome. The department shall require written evidence that the necessary consents have been obtained pursuant to this section, and shall require application for either a transportation permit or manufactured home or mobilehome registration, as the department may decide is appropriate to the circumstances. Immediately upon removal, as defined in this section, the manufactured home or mobilehome shall be deemed to have become personal property and subject to all laws governing the same as applicable to a manufactured home or mobilehome.

(i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any manufactured home or mobilehome not installed on a foundation system pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 18551 or converted to a fixture and improvement to real property as prescribed by this section shall not be deemed a fixture or improvement to the real property. This subdivision shall not be construed to affect the application of sales and use or property taxes.

(j) Once converted to a fixture and improvement to real property, a manufactured home or mobilehome shall be subject to state-enforced health and safety standards for manufactured homes or mobilehomes enforced pursuant to Section 18020.

(k) No local agency shall require, as a condition for the approval of the conversion of a rental mobilehome park to a resident-owned park, including, but not limited to, a subdivision, cooperative, condominium, or nonprofit corporation formed pursuant to Section 11010.8 of the Business and Professions Code for manufactured homes or mobilehomes, that any manufactured home or mobilehome located there be converted to a fixture and improvement to the underlying real property.

(l) The department is authorized to adopt emergency regulations in accordance with Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code in order to implement the purposes of this section.