



Guidelines for Approval of Alternative Materials, Design and Methods of Construction

In order to formalize a standard approach for developing and reviewing *Applications for Alternative Materials or Methods of Construction* under the provisions of the 2022 California Building Code Section 104.11 and the 2022 California Residential Code Section R104.11, the following guidelines have been established.

1. In order to request the Building Official's review and approval of any Alternate Method(s) of Construction, the applicant and/or registered design professional shall first complete an *Application for Alternate Materials and Methods of Construction*. The form is located online at https://www.visalia.city/depts/community_development/building_safety/forms_and_handouts/default.asp. The request must be accompanied by the necessary additional documentation and must:

- a) Describe all elements of the *Alternative* i.e., materials, products, and methods and explain why request is being submitted.
- b) Specify the code provision(s) for which *Alternative* is requested.
- c) Compare the proposed *Alternative* with the code requirements in terms of suitability, effectiveness, quality, durability, fire-resistance, safety, structural strength, and any other impacts affecting the building or users of the building.
- d) Provide documentation for evaluation methods, test reports, recognized standards, and expert opinions utilized in the request.
- e) Specify when and where special inspection and testing are required at the job site and describe the verification procedures for field acceptance for demonstrating compliance.

2. The Application and supporting documentation shall be dated, signed and stamped by the registered design professional (where required).

3. The registered design professional shall coordinate construction documents to reflect the alternative proposal and shall be responsible for incorporating all specifics of the proposal and conditions of approval into reproducible drawings.

4. The Building Official shall review the proposed *Alternative* and supporting documentation for conformance with adopted codes, ordinances and regulations. If City Officials do not have the expertise on staff to make a thorough and competent review, a third party of peer review process may be utilized. The cost of any such review shall be paid by the applicant, as specified in the City of Visalia Fee Schedule.