



[http://www.bioregionnews.com/issues/2\\_38/around\\_regions/149703-1.html](http://www.bioregionnews.com/issues/2_38/around_regions/149703-1.html)

**9-29-08**

**California Building Standards Commission Approves L-Occupancy**

California's Building Standards Commission has approved a new L-Occupancy classification for the state's building code, with the goal of promoting life sciences facilities growth, according to BayBio, the life sciences industry group for the San Francisco Bay Area and northern California.

The new L-Occupancy, which has already been used in some California communities, allows the construction of laboratory facilities above the third floor. The issue arose after California approved a revised building code last year; because the revised building code was based on a different source than the 2001 code, it restricted the use of laboratory chemicals above the first two above-ground levels of buildings.

The change followed two years of talks between BayBio representatives, architects, engineers, building officials and members of the Office of the State Fire Marshall.