



Options for Review and Approval of Special Inspection Companies

CBC Chapter 17 provides for the use of Special Inspectors for work listed in the referenced section. Special inspections are mandatory – not optional – requirements of the California Building Code. The purpose of this Technical Bulletin is to provide information on how the City of Walnut Creek evaluates the qualifications and acceptability of individual special inspectors and their affiliated companies.

The City of Walnut Creek currently offers three options for evaluating special inspectors and their affiliated company. The three options are briefly outlined below:

OPTION ONE: SPECIAL INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION PROGRAM AGREEMENT

If the owner, the architect or engineer of record for the structural design, the engineer in responsible charge of the inspection company and special inspectors, and the contractor all agree to all the terms and conditions contained in the City of Walnut Creek's ***SPECIAL INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION PROGRAM AGREEMENT***, then that agreement will form the basis for the approval and acceptance of the special inspection company. The utilization of the ***SPECIAL INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION PROGRAM AGREEMENT*** will be deemed by the Building Official to meet the requirements of CBC Chapter 17.

OPTION TWO: EVALUATION BY QUALITY CONTROL AGENCY

Option two utilizes a consulting quality control agency to evaluate the qualifications and acceptability of each special inspection company. The City of Walnut Creek does not have the in-house capacity or the expertise to perform qualification review and verification for the purpose of satisfying CBC Chapter 17. Therefore, the city will utilize a *Quality Control Agency* under these provisions to provide the review and verification, and to present the findings of their review and verification to the Chief Building Official. A written report shall be prepared by the quality control agency that addresses the qualification requirements.

OPTION THREE: SPECIAL INSPECTION COMPANY ACCREDITED BY ISA

Option three uses the Special Inspector Accreditation Program for agencies offered by International Accreditation Service (IAS), a subsidiary of ICC. The program requires special inspection agencies to operate under a quality system that is documented in a manual, and also requires the agency to be assessed in the field to determine if it is competent to perform specific inspections or types of inspections. IAS accreditation is based on the assessment of a special inspection agency's inspection procedures, the competence of its inspection staff, and its reporting procedures. Any company having an IAS accreditation as a special inspection company will be acceptable by the City of Walnut Creek in the area of accreditation provided their accreditation is in good standing and current. Information on this



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program may be obtained at the following website: <https://www.iasonline.org/search-accredited-organizations-2/>