



San Francisco – Healthy Building Ordinance

July 2020

NEW CLEANING REQUIREMENTS

On July 7, 2020, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to pass a union-backed measure titled the "[Healthy Building Ordinance](#)."

Introduced as an emergency measure, the Healthy Buildings Ordinance goes into effect immediately upon passage by the Mayor of San Francisco, which is expected to be at 5:00 p.m. on July 18, 2020 and last for 60 days.

Among its key provisions are mandated cleaning requirements, prohibitions against programs incentivizing reduced room cleanings, and a private right of action for employees alleging failure to comply with the ordinance. While the measure, which would apply to all hotels with more than six rooms, is [awaiting final passage](#), it is expected to pass into law soon and, though temporary, the ordinance can be extended by the Board of Supervisors. Additionally, similar legislation may see the measures contained therein become permanent requirements. CHLA is working with local and federal partners to [address the issues](#) contained within this ordinance.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR PROVISIONS

- *No hotel may offer any incentive to any guest to decline guest room cleaning on a daily basis.*
- *Guests are presumed to elect daily guest room cleaning unless they affirmatively indicate a preference not to receive daily room cleaning.*
- *Bed linens and towels shall be changed no less than daily, unless the guest requests otherwise.*
- *Bathrooms in occupied guest rooms shall be cleaned and disinfected once per day, absent special circumstances requiring more frequent cleaning, unless the guest requests otherwise.*
- *Items and fixtures such as walls, floors, and drapes shall be cleaned and disinfected in public areas, employee areas, elevators, stairways, restrooms, meeting rooms, shipping areas, as well as dining and bar facilities multiple times daily, and more frequently where appropriate.*
- *If the Health Department recommends that employees undergo testing for a Contagious Public Health Threat, hotels shall ensure that such employees may receive testing as recommended by the Department at no cost to the employee, and shall occur on paid time, including time required to travel to and from testing sites.*
- *Any employee or former employee may bring a civil action in the San Francisco Superior Court and receive renumerations for violations of this ordinance.*

HIGH CONTACT AREAS

The following "High Contact Areas" must be cleaned multiple times per day:

- Public and employee areas
- Elevators
- Stairways, stairwells, and escalators
- Restrooms
- Meeting rooms
- Multi-use Instruments/items
- Doors
- Dining and bar facilities
- Shipping and receiving areas
- Guest rooms as specifically outlined

PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION

Hotels can be sued for non-compliance.

According to Section 7 of the ordinance, "Any Employee or former Employee may bring a civil action in the San Francisco Superior Court for violations of this ordinance," and may be awarded:

1. Actual damages or statutory damages up to \$1,000
2. Exemplary/punitive damages
3. Attorneys' fees and costs

CHLA + CABBI Members:

Questions or concerns?

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