



**ADVISORY: California Building Code (CBC) Chapter 11B,
Construction and manufacturing tolerances provision.**

Please be advised that CBC section **1101B.5 Construction and manufacturing tolerances** was modified with the adoption of the 2007 CBC. This modification resulted in a need to apply higher standard of care to the design and construction of building elements subject maximum, minimum or dimensional ranges relating to accessibility. The section was modified with the addition of the underline clause as follows.

1101B.5 Construction and manufacturing tolerances. All dimensions are subject to conventional industry tolerances except where the requirement is stated as a range with specific minimum and maximum end points.

This revised section no longer recognized construction or manufacturing tolerances for the underlined circumstances, thus the common practice for a designer or builder to design or build to the limit became a risky proposition given the exacting nature of such an effort.

To avoid expensive reworking and project delays it is advisable to consider evaluating those design features that most frequently prove problematic in the field and adjust design practices accordingly. The more thoughtful the approach, and the better the approved plans are at communicating requirements, the greater the chances that construction will be built correctly the first time.

For example, counter heights and under counter clearances at restroom lavatories are subject to a maximum and minimum respectively but are not always built within these limits. To prevent this from occurring a designer might specify less than the maximum and more than the minimum respectively to a degree sufficient to accommodate reasonable construction tolerances along with respectively to a degree sufficient to accommodate reasonable construction tolerances along with a definitive note not to exceed or be less than the maximum or minimum. Another example is minimum room and hall dimensions. Specifying the minimum with the expectation that the builder can build to exact dimensions may now be deemed an imprudent approach.