Part I. General Information
This guide is intended to assist architects and engineers in developing alternate materials/methods of construction when the building design cannot meet the prescriptive requirements enforced by the Clark County Building Department.

Alternate Materials and Methods of Construction are required to provide a level of protection at least equivalent to that intended by the prescriptive code requirements.

Part II. Applicant’s Responsibility
The design professional is responsible for:

- Researching the subject and providing the Building Department sufficient information to clearly demonstrate that the request provides the level of protection intended by the prescriptive requirements.
- Providing the Department of Building with a written submission as early in the building permit process as possible.
- Conforming to listings and manufacturer’s installation instructions.
- Thoroughly reviewing all available products and assemblies meeting the applicable code requirements prior to submitting any requests for alternate materials (Engineered Judgments).
- Ensure coordination with all applicable construction documents.
- If notified by the builder that the alternate cannot be installed in accordance with approved documents, submitting revised documents to the Building Department and correcting the situation upon approval.

Part III. Prerequisites
The design professional shall make an appointment with the appropriate Building Department staff to discuss:

- Reasons for the proposed alternate.
- The Department of Building’s preliminary concurrence of non-compliance aspects.
- Proposed mitigating aspects to provide equivalency.
- The Department of Building’s preliminary support for the proposed approach.
- Submittal expectations.
Part IV. Applicable Codes
Currently adopted:
- International Building Code
- International Residential Code
- Uniform Mechanical Code
- Uniform Plumbing Code
- International Energy Conservation Code
- National Electrical Code
- ICC/ANSI
- Clark County Building Administrative Code
- Southern Nevada Building Code Amendments

Part V. Submittal Package
The design professional shall submit a written request using the “Alternates Application Form” to the Manager of Plans Examination for formal acceptance. This request must be accompanied by a written report that contains, at a minimum, the following applicable elements for review:

- Provide an introductory statement clearly describing the subject. Include the reason(s) the code requirement(s) cannot be met.

- List all code sections that the proposed arrangement does not meet along with the applicable requirement(s).

- Describe the intent of the applicable requirement(s) for which the proposed approach is being requested.

- Clearly describe what is requested by the proposal.

- Clearly list all mitigating aspects and provide sufficient justification to substantiate equivalency to the applicable code requirement(s) in terms of:
  - Quality
  - Suitability
  - Strength
  - Structural integrity
  - Effectiveness
  - Fire-resistance
  - Durability
  - Performance
  - Health
  - Life and fire safety
  - Accessibility
  - Sanitation
  - Impact on the building and/or occupants

- Clarify that the proposal is compatible with all other applicable code requirements.

- Include references of authoritative document(s) that substantiate the proposal.
NOTE: An authoritative document contains state-of-the-art knowledge on a particular subject and is promulgated by means of an open consensus process or a review by professional peers conducted by recognized authoritative professional organizations or governmental agencies. Research papers, theses, and other technical papers representing individuals’ opinions that are not, or not yet, widely accepted would not be considered authoritative documents.

Document all assumptions, references and evaluation methods used include:

- Intended use
- Input data
- Anticipated outputs
- Limitations of computer models
- Other analytical tools or methods

Explain how the proposed mitigating aspects will be identified on-site.

Explain when and where special inspection and testing are necessary and the standards of acceptance for demonstrating compliance.

Explain how the mitigating aspects will be recognized throughout the life of the building and remain part of the building safety features.

NOTE: Where land use restrictions and building setbacks are required, deed restrictions may be an appropriate method to ensure continued compliance.

- Summarize how and where the proposed mitigating aspects will be incorporated into construction plans.
- Specify any necessary revisions to approved drawing submittals.
- Provide a summary statement paraphrasing the request and mitigating aspects ensuring equivalency.
- The report and all related documents must be dated, signed and stamped by the responsible design professional according to the Building Department’s plan submittal procedures.
- An authorized representative of the Owner(s) is also required to sign the report when mitigating aspects require commitment of follow-up beyond normal expectations.
- When enforcement is shared with other departments (i.e. Fire), review and approval by the appropriate agency will be required.
- Include supporting documentation in appendices. This may include:
  - Small scale drawings clearly showing pertinent aspects
  - Calculations
  - Computer input/output
  - Copies of substantiating documentation
  - Manufacturer’s information
  - Copies of referenced authoritative document(s)
  - Copies of deed restrictions
Part VI. Additional Information

- At least two (2) copies are required for review. At least four (4) copies are required for final submittals ready for the Building Department approval.
- Alternates to tested assemblies (Engineered Judgments) will only be considered when the request stipulates that a thorough review of all available assemblies has been conducted and no compliant assemblies exist that resolve the specific application.
- Requests to use alternate materials and methods of construction that are denied by the Building Official may be appealed to the Combined Board of Building Appeals. See the 22.02.155 of the Clark County Building Administrative Code.
# Department of Building & Fire Prevention Locations & Services

| MAIN OFFICE | On-Site Plan Submittals  
|             | All “Walk-Through” Plan Review / Permitting Functions  
|             | Residential Tract Submittal / Permitting  
|             | All Sub-Trade (Electrical, Plumbing & Mechanical) Permitting  
|             | Building Inspection Scheduling Functions  
|             | Fire Prevention Inspection Services  
|             | Records  
| LAUGHLIN OFFICE | Building Inspection Services  
|             | Fire Prevention Inspection Services  
| OVERTON OFFICE | Building Inspection Services  
|             | Fire Prevention Inspection Services  

## Automated Phone System (702) 455-3000

**Option 1:** For all Inspection services or to report a building code violation.  
**Option 2:** For information regarding on-site permits or new plan submittals.  
**Option 3:** For the Building Plans Examination division or QAA information.  
**Option 4:** For the Zoning Plans Examination division.  
**Option 5:** For information or copies regarding land development, construction documents, plans or permits.  
**Option 6:** To speak with Management staff.  
**Option #:** For hours of operation, Office location and website information.

## Other Clark County Departments/Divisions/Districts

| Air Quality & Environmental Management | 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas NV | (702) 455-5942  
| Public Works, Development Review Services | 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas NV | (702) 455-6000  
| Comprehensive Planning | 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas NV | (702) 455-4314  
| Fire Department | 575 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas NV | (702) 455-7316  
| Las Vegas Valley Water District | 1001 S. Valley View Boulevard, Las Vegas NV | (702) 870-2011  
| Southern Nevada Health District | 625 Shadow Lane, Las Vegas NV | (702) 759-1000  
| Water Reclamation District | 5857 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas NV | (702) 668-8888  

## State of Nevada

| Division of Water Resources | 400 Shadow Lane, Suite 201, Las Vegas NV | (702) 486-2770  
| Nevada State Contractors Board | 2310 Corporate Circle, Suite 200, Henderson NV | (702) 486-1100  

## Utilities

| Nevada Power | 6226 W. Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas NV | (702) 402-5555  
| Southwest Gas | 5241 Spring Mountain Road, Las Vegas NV | (877) 860-6020  

[www.clarkcountynv.gov/building](http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/building)