



SEISMIC RETROFIT PLANNING AND DESIGN SERVICES



California hospitals that have yet to comply with the state's Hospital Seismic Retrofit Program have until Jan. 1, 2030, to do so or risk being shut down. IMEG's seismic bracing and retrofit experts can guide clients through this complex and often confusing process, which can take years to complete.

The Hospital Seismic Retrofit Program is designed to ensure a hospital's continued functionality, safety, and ability to care for patients immediately after a major earthquake. Currently, each hospital is assigned a seismic performance category, or SPC, ranging from SPC-1 (significant risk of collapse) to SPC-5 (reasonably capable of providing services to the public after a major earthquake). The program requires all hospitals to reach the "functionality" level of SPC-5 (or SPC-4D) by 2030.

The relatively new category, SPC-4D, however, allows hospitals to strengthen to a level that controls damage and return to functionality at a slower pace than SPC-5. This makes SPC-4D the least onerous and most cost-effective upgrade option for older, non-conforming SPC-1 and SPC-2 hospitals (for which retrofits can be particularly costly and time intensive). IMEG's experience has shown that compliance does not always require upgrades, however.

If the seismic evaluation does show the need for upgrades to get to SPC-4D, upon receiving plan approval owners can proceed with construction in a phased manner to keep the hospital operational.

Other benefits of upgrading SPC-1 and SPC-2 buildings to SPC-4D at this time also include:

- Being prepared for the next big quake (geologists say Southern California is long overdue)
- Saving escalating construction costs and earthquake insurance premiums
- Immunity from future code changes

IMEG is currently working on seismic evaluation and retrofit (SPC-4D and NPC-4D) of several hospital buildings in California. Of the nearly 70 SPC-1 buildings IMEG has completed in the past, 62 percent obtained reclassification to SPC-2 by analysis alone, saving owners the expense of construction.

Edwin Najarian, PE, SE
Edwin.Najarian@imegcorp.com
(626) 463-2759



Contact IMEG Client Executive Edwin Najarian to learn how we can help you understand, plan for, and economically comply with SPC-4D before 2030.