Minimum Ceiling Heights in Amnesty Units

CITY OF ALAMEDA - PERMIT CENTER
2263 SANTA CLARA AVENUE, ROOM 190
ALAMEDA CA 94501
510-747-6800 ph 510-747-6804 fax

This code interpretation will replace previous interpretations on this issue.
Ceiling heights in amnesty units shall comply with those in effect at the time the unit or space was constructed.
The most liberal interpretation of the following chart will be made in each case. Ceiling heights may be lower if a more recent code would allow a lower height.

Codes	Effective Dates	Habitable Rooms	Sleeping Rooms	Kitchens	Toilet Rooms	Laundry, Storage, Utility Rooms	Corridors & Hallways
1927-1940	5/21/29-8/5/46	No Requirement	No Requirement	No Requirement	No Requirement	No Requirement	No Requirement
1946	8/6/46-8/14/50	7'6" in at least 40 sq. ft.	7'6" in at least 40 sq. ft.	7'6" in at least 25 sq. ft.	No Requirement	No Requirement	No Requirement
1949-1964	8/15/50-1/17/72	7'6" in at least 40 sq. ft. No portion of ceiling may be less than 5'-0"	7'6" in at least 40 sq. ft. No portion of ceiling may be less than 5'-0"	7'6" in at least 25 sq. ft. No portion of ceiling may be less than 5'-0"	7'6" No portion of ceiling may be less than 5'-0"	No Requirement	No Requirement
1970-1973	1/18/72-10/31/77	7'6" See exception #1 & #2	7'6" See exception #1 & #2	7'6" See exception #1 & #2	7'0" See exception #1 & #2	7'6" See exception #1 & #2	7'0" See exception #1 & #2
1976	11/1/77-12/16/85	7'6" See exception #1 & #2	7'6" See exception #1 & #2	7'6" See exception #1 & #2	7'0" See exception #1 & #2	7'0" See exception #1 & #2	7'0" See exception #1 & #2
1985-2007	12/17/85-12/31/07	7'6" See exception #1, #2 & #3	7'6" See exception #1, #2 & #3	7'0" See exception #1, #2 & #3	7'0" See exception #1, #2 & #3	No Requirement	7'0" See exception #1, #2 & #3
2008-	1/1/08-current	7'6" See exception #1, #2, #4 & #5	7'6" See exception #1, #2, #4 & #5	7'0" See exception #1, #2, #4 & #5	7'0" See exception #1, #2, #4 & #5	7'0" See exception #1, #2, #4 & #5	7'6" See exception #1, #2, #4 & #5

Exception #1 -- If any room in a building has a sloping ceiling, the prescribed ceiling height for the room is required in only one-half the area thereof. No portion of the room measuring 5 feet from the finished floor to the finished ceiling shall be included in any computation of the minimum area thereof.

Exception #2 -- If any room has a furred ceiling, the prescribed ceiling height is required in two-thirds the area thereof, but in no case shall the height of the furred ceiling be less than 7 feet.

Exception #3 -- Where exposed beam ceiling members are spaced at less than 48" on center, ceiling height shall be measured to the bottom of these members.
Where exposed beam ceiling members are spaced at 48" or more on center, ceiling height shall be measured to the bottom of the deck

Exception #4 -- In one and two-family dwellings, beams or girders spaced not less than 4 feet on center and projecting not more than 6 inches below the required ceiling height.

Exception #5 -- 7'-0" minimum ceiling height allowed in residential buildings built prior to 1942. (AMC Section 13-2.2).