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CEA Support for use of ANSI certified commissioning professionals

The California Energy Alliance (CEA) would like to express its support of the use of certified commissioning professionals on regulated, nonresidential projects exceeding 50,000 square feet in size or that contain a complex mechanical system, as put forth by the California chapter of the Building Commissioning Association. In light of the fact that the Building Energy Efficiency Standards contain no mandates or certification requirements for these professionals, which are critical to realize and sustain long-term energy savings in applicable projects, and yet the Standards mandate their inclusion per Section 120.8, the Building Commissioning Associations recommendations to include at least an industry recognized, ANSI certification requirement is valid. To allow commissioning agents to perform work on projects when there is no California mandated requirements listed for their abilities seems like an obvious flaw in the code. Requiring that the individuals working on the largest and most complex projects are third-party, ANSI-accredited, certified commissioning professionals is a reasonable way of ensuring properly trained commissioning agents in the state are involved on its largest projects.

Secondly, since only larger projects would require ANSI-certified commissioning agents, there appears to be enough practitioners in California to handle the workload. After all, the Energy Standards mandated 300 lighting controls acceptance test technicians would need to be in the state initially to cover every regulated building project, so the 200+ certified commissioning agents cited by the Building Commissioning Association seems to be more than sufficient to cover the much more limited number (abet the largest) of California commissioning projects.

The CEA is composed of a broad cross-section of professionals involved in the building and energy sectors in California. Members expressing support for this recommendation include the Sheet Metal Workers of California, the National Electrical Contractors Association, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, major manufacturers, energy consultants, the International Association of Lighting Designers and many others.