

Classification of Occupancy & Hazard of Contents

As Defined by NFPA 101® Life Safety Code® & NFPA 5000™ Building Construction & Safety Code (2009)

Classification of Occupancy (6.1)

The occupancy of a building or structure, or portion of a building or structure, shall be classified as one of the following:

Assembly

An occupancy (1) used for a gathering of 50 or more persons for deliberation, worship, entertainment, eating, drinking, amusement, awaiting transportation, or similar uses; or (2) used as a special amusement building regardless of occupant load.

Assembly occupancies include the following:

- Armories
- Exhibition halls
- Places of religious worship
- Assembly halls
- Gymnasiums
- Pool rooms
- Auditoriums
- Libraries facilities
- Recreation piers
- Bowling lanes
- Mortuary chapels
- Restaurants
- Club rooms
- Skating rinks
- Colleges and university classrooms 50 persons +
- Museums
- Theaters
- Passenger stations and terminals of air, surface, underground and marine public transportation
- Conference rooms
- Courtrooms
- Dance halls
- Drinking establishments
- Motion picture theaters

Occupancy of any room or space for assembly purposes by fewer than 50 persons in another occupancy and incidental to such other occupancy shall be classified as part of the other occupancy and shall be subject to the provisions applicable thereto.

Educational

An occupancy used for educational purposes through the twelfth grade by six or more persons for four or more hours per day or more than twelve hours per week.

Educational occupancies include the following:

- Academies
- Kindergartens
- Nursery schools
- Schools

Other occupancies associated with educational institutions shall be in accordance with the appropriate parts of this Code.

In cases where instruction is incidental to some other occupancy, the section of the Code governing such other occupancy shall apply.

Health Care

An occupancy used to provide medical or other treatment or care simultaneously to four or more patients on an inpatient basis, where such patients are mostly incapable of self-preservation due to age, physical or mental disability, or because of security measures not under the occupants' control.

Health care occupancies include the following:

- Hospitals
- Limited care facilities
- Nursing homes

Ambulatory Health Care

A building or portion thereof used to provide services or treatment simultaneously to four or more patients that provides, on an outpatient basis, one or more of the following:

- 1) Treatment for patients that renders the patients incapable of taking action for self-preservation under emergency conditions without the assistance of others.
- 2) Anesthesia that renders the patients incapable of taking action for self-preservation under emergency conditions without the assistance of others.
- 3) Emergency or urgent care for patients who, due to the nature of their injury or illness are incapable of taking action for self-preservation under emergency conditions without the assistance of others.

Detention and Correctional

An occupancy used to house four or more persons under varied degrees of restraint or security where such occupants are mostly incapable of self-preservation because of security measures not under the occupants' control. Within detention and correctional facilities, uses other than residential housing shall be in accordance with the appropriate chapter of the Code.

Detention and correctional occupancies include the following:

- Adult and juvenile substance abuse centers
- Adult correctional institutions
- Juvenile detention facilities and training schools
- Adult local detention facilities
- Adult and juvenile work camps and community residential centers

Residential

An occupancy that provides sleeping accommodations for purposes other than health care or detention and correctional. Residential occupancies are treated separately in the Code in the following groups:

- One- and Two-Family Dwelling Units
- Lodging or Rooming Houses
- Hotels & Dormitories
- Apartment Buildings

Residential Board & Care

A building or portion thereof that is used for lodging and boarding of four or more residents, not related by blood or marriage to the owners or operators, for the purpose of providing personal care services.

Mercantile

An occupancy used for the display and sale of merchandise.

Mercantile occupancies include the following:

- Auction rooms
- Department stores
- Drugstores
- Shopping centers
- Supermarkets

Business

An occupancy used for the transaction of business other than mercantile.

Business occupancies include the following:

- Air traffic control towers (ATCT's)
- Dentists' offices
- City halls
- Doctors' offices
- College and university instructional buildings
- Town halls
- Courthouses
- General offices
- Outpatient clinics, classrooms under 50 ambulatory persons, and instructional laboratories

Industrial

An occupancy in which products are manufactured or in which processing, assembling, mixing, packaging, finishing or decorating, or repair operations are conducted.

Industrial occupancies include the following:

- Dry cleaning plants
- Hangars (service/maintenance)
- Pumping stations
- Food processing plants
- Factories of all kinds
- Telephone exchanges
- Sawmills
- Refineries
- Power Plants
- Laundries
- Gasplants

Storage

An occupancy used primarily for the storage or sheltering of goods, merchandise, products, or vehicles.

Storage occupancies include the following:

- Barns
- Bulk oil storage
- Cold storage
- Freight terminals
- Stables
- Grain elevators
- Hangars (for storage only)
- Parking structures

Day-Care

An occupancy in which four or more clients receive care, maintenance, and supervision, by other than their relatives or legal guardians, for less than 24 hours per day.

Day-care occupancies include the following:

- Child day-care occupancies
- Nursery schools
- Adult day-care occupancies
- Day care homes
- Kindergarten classes that are incidental to a child day-care occupancy
- Health care occupancy

Multiple Occupancies

A building or structure in which two or more classes of occupancy exist.

A Mixed Occupancy is a multiple occupancy where the occupancies are intermingled.

A Separated Occupancy is a multiple occupancy where the occupancies are separated by fire resistance-rated assemblies.

Hazard of Contents (6.2)

Hazard of contents of any building or structure shall be classified as one of the following:

Low Hazard

Contents are of such low combustibility that no self-propagating fire therein can occur.

Ordinary Hazard

Contents are likely to burn with moderate rapidity or to give off a considerable volume of smoke.

High Hazard

Contents are likely to burn with extreme rapidity or from which explosions are likely.