

CHAPTER 3 OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION AND USE

SECTION 303 ASSEMBLY GROUP A

303.1 Assembly Group A.

Assembly Group A occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for the gathering of persons for purposes such as civic, social or religious functions; recreation, food or drink consumption or awaiting transportation.

303.1.1 Small buildings and tenant spaces.

A building or tenant space used for assembly purposes with an *occupant load* of less than 50 persons shall be classified as a Group B occupancy.

303.1.2 Small assembly spaces.

The following rooms and spaces shall not be classified as Assembly occupancies:

1. A room or space used for assembly purposes with an *occupant load* of less than 50 persons and accessory to another occupancy shall be classified as a Group B occupancy or as part of that occupancy.
2. A room or space used for assembly purposes that is less than 750 square feet (70 m²) in area and accessory to another occupancy shall be classified as a Group B occupancy or as part of that occupancy.

303.1.3 Associated with Group E occupancies.

A room or space used for assembly purposes that is associated with a Group E occupancy is not considered a separate occupancy.

303.1.4 Accessory to places of religious worship.

Accessory religious educational rooms and religious auditoriums with *occupant loads* of less than 100 per room or space are not considered separate occupancies.

303.1.5 Special amusement areas.

Special amusement areas shall comply with [Section 411](#).

303.2 Assembly Group A-1.

Group A-1 occupancy includes assembly uses, usually with fixed seating, intended for the production and viewing of the performing arts or motion pictures including, but not limited to:

- Motion picture theaters
- Symphony and concert halls
- Television and radio studios admitting an audience
- Theaters

303.3 Assembly Group A-2.

Group A-2 occupancy includes assembly uses intended for food and/or drink consumption including, but not limited to:

- Banquet halls
- Casinos (*gaming areas*)
- Nightclubs
- Restaurants, cafeterias and similar dining facilities (including associated commercial kitchens)
- Taverns and bars

303.4 Assembly Group A-3.

Group A-3 occupancy includes assembly uses intended for worship, recreation or amusement and other assembly uses not classified elsewhere in Group A including, but not limited to:

- Amusement arcades
- Art galleries
- Bowling alleys
- Community halls
- Courtrooms
- Dance halls (not including food or drink consumption)
- Exhibition halls
- Funeral parlors
- Greenhouses* for the conservation and exhibition of plants that provide public access
- Gymnasiums (without spectator seating)

Indoor *swimming pools* (without spectator seating)
Indoor tennis courts (without spectator seating)
Lecture halls
Libraries
Museums
Places of religious worship
Pool and billiard parlors
Waiting areas in transportation terminals

303.5 Assembly Group A-4.

Group A-4 occupancy includes assembly uses intended for viewing of indoor sporting events and activities with spectator seating including, but not limited to:

Arenas
Skating rinks
Swimming pools
Tennis courts

303.6 Assembly Group A-5.

Group A-5 occupancy includes assembly uses intended for participation in or viewing outdoor activities including, but not limited to:

Amusement park structures
Bleachers
Grandstands
Stadiums

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SECTION 304 BUSINESS GROUP B

304.1 Business Group B.

Business Group B occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for office, professional or service-type transactions, including storage of records and accounts. Business occupancies shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Airport traffic control towers

Ambulatory care facilities

Animal hospitals, kennels and pounds

Banks

Barber and beauty shops

Car wash

Civic administration

Clinic, outpatient

Dry cleaning and laundries: pick-up and delivery stations and self-service

Educational occupancies for students above the 12th grade including *higher education laboratories*

Electronic data processing

Food processing establishments and commercial kitchens not associated with restaurants, cafeterias and similar dining facilities not more than 2,500 square feet (232 m²) in area

Laboratories: testing and research

Motor vehicle showrooms

Post offices

Print shops

Professional services (architects, attorneys, dentists, physicians, engineers, etc.)

Radio and television stations

Telephone exchanges

Training and skill development not in a school or academic program (this shall include, but not be limited to, tutoring centers, martial arts studios, gymnastics and similar uses regardless of the ages served, and where not classified as a Group A occupancy)

304.2 Airport traffic control towers.

Airport traffic control towers shall comply with Section 412.2.

304.3 Ambulatory care facilities.

Ambulatory care facilities shall comply with Section 422.

304.4 Higher education laboratories.

Higher education laboratories shall comply with Section 428.

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SECTION 305 EDUCATIONAL GROUP E

305.1 Educational Group E.

Educational Group E occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, by six or more persons at any one time for educational purposes through the 12th grade.

305.1.1 Accessory to places of religious worship.

Religious educational rooms and religious auditoriums, which are accessory to *places of religious worship* in accordance with [Section 303.1.4](#) and have *occupant loads* of less than 100 per room or space, shall be classified as Group A-3 occupancies.

305.2 Group E, day care facilities.

This group includes buildings and structures or portions thereof occupied by more than five children older than $\frac{2}{2}$ years of age who receive educational, supervision or *personal care services* for fewer than 24 hours per day.

305.2.1 Within places of religious worship.

Rooms and spaces within *places of religious worship* providing such day care during religious functions shall be classified as part of the primary occupancy.

305.2.2 Five or fewer children.

A facility having five or fewer children receiving such day care shall be classified as part of the primary occupancy.

305.2.3 Five or fewer children in a dwelling unit.

A facility such as the above within a *dwelling unit* and having five or fewer children receiving such day care shall be classified as a Group R-3 occupancy or shall comply with the [International Residential Code](#).

305.3 Storm shelters in Group E occupancies.

Storm shelters shall be provided for Group E occupancies where required by [Section 423.5](#).

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SECTION 306 FACTORY GROUP F

306.1 Factory Industrial Group F.

Factory Industrial Group F occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for assembling, disassembling, fabricating, finishing, manufacturing, packaging, repair or processing operations that are not classified as a Group H hazardous or Group S storage occupancy.

306.2 Moderate-hazard factory industrial, Group F-1.

Factory industrial uses that are not classified as Factory Industrial F-2 Low Hazard shall be classified as F-1 Moderate Hazard and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Aircraft (manufacturing, not to include repair)
- Appliances
- Athletic equipment
- Automobiles and other motor vehicles
- Bakeries
- Beverages: over 16-percent alcohol content
- Bicycles
- Boats
- Brooms or brushes
- Business machines
- Cameras and photo equipment
- Canvas or similar fabric
- Carpets and rugs (includes cleaning)
- Clothing
- Construction and agricultural machinery
- Disinfectants
- Dry cleaning and dyeing
- Electric generation plants
- Electronics
- [Energy storage systems \(ESS\) in dedicated use buildings](#)
- Engines (including rebuilding)
- Food processing establishments and commercial kitchens not associated with restaurants, cafeterias and similar dining facilities more than 2,500 square feet (232 m²) in area
- Furniture
- Hemp products
- Jute products
- Laundries
- Leather products
- Machinery
- Metals
- Millwork (sash and door)
- Motion pictures and television filming (without spectators)
- Musical instruments
- Optical goods
- Paper mills or products
- Photographic film
- Plastic products
- Printing or publishing
- Recreational vehicles
- Refuse incineration
- Shoes
- Soaps and detergents
- Textiles
- Tobacco

Trailers

Upholstering

[Water/sewer treatment facilities](#)

Wood; distillation

Woodworking (cabinet)

306.2.1 Aircraft manufacturing facilities.

[Aircraft manufacturing facilities shall comply with Section 412.6.](#)

306.3 Low-hazard factory industrial, Group F-2.

Factory industrial uses that involve the fabrication or manufacturing of noncombustible materials that during finishing, packing or processing do not involve a significant fire hazard shall be classified as F-2 occupancies and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Beverages: up to and including 16-percent alcohol content

Brick and masonry

Ceramic products

Foundries

Glass products

Gypsum

Ice

Metal products (fabrication and assembly)

CHAPTER 3 OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION AND USE

SECTION 307 HIGH-HAZARD GROUP H

[F] 307.1 High-hazard Group H.

High-hazard Group H occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, that involves the manufacturing, processing, generation or storage of materials that constitute a physical or *health hazard* in quantities in excess of those allowed in *control areas* complying with [Section 414](#), based on the maximum allowable quantity limits for *control areas* set forth in [Tables 307.1\(1\)](#) and [307.1\(2\)](#). Hazardous occupancies are classified in Groups H-1, H-2, H-3, H-4 and H-5 and shall be in accordance with this section, the requirements of [Section 415](#) and the [International Fire Code](#). *Hazardous materials* stored, or used on top of roofs or canopies, shall be classified as outdoor storage or use and shall comply with the [International Fire Code](#).

TABLE 307.1(1)
MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE QUANTITY PER CONTROL AREA OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS POSING A PHYSICAL HAZARD^{a, j, m, n, p}

MATERIAL	CLAS S	GROUP WHEN THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE QUANTITY IS EXCEEDED	STORAGE ^b			USE-CLOSED SYSTEMS ^b			USE-OPEN SYSTEMS ^b	
			Solid pounds (cubic feet)	Liquid gallons (pound s)	Gas (cubic feet at NTP)	Solid pounds (cubic feet)	Liquid gallons (pound s)	Gas (cubic feet at NTP)	Solid pounds (cubic feet)	Liquid gallons (pound s)
Combustible dust	NA	H-2	See Note q	NA	NA	See Note q	NA	NA	See Note q	NA
Combustible fiber ^q	Loose	H-3	(100)	NA	NA	(100)	NA	NA	(20)	NA
	Baled ^q		(1,000)			(1,000)			(200)	
Combustible liquid ^{c, i}	II	H-2 or H-3	NA	120 ^{d, e}	NA	NA	120 ^d	NA	NA	30 ^d
	IIIA	H-2 or H-3		330 ^{d, e}			330 ^d			80 ^d
	IIIB	NA		13,200 ^{e, f}			13,200 ^f			3,300 ^f
Cryogenic flammable	NA	H-2	NA	45 ^d	NA	NA	45 ^d	NA	NA	10 ^d
Cryogenic inert	NA	NA	NA	NA	NL	NA	NA	NL	NA	NA
Cryogenic oxidizing	NA	H-3	NA	45 ^d	NA	NA	45 ^d	NA	NA	10 ^d
Explosives	Division 1.1	H-1	1 ^{e, g}	(1) ^{e, g}	NA	0.25 ^g	(0.25) ^g	NA	0.25 ^g	(0.25) ^g
	Division 1.2	H-1	1 ^{e, g}	(1) ^{e, g}		0.25 ^g	(0.25) ^g		0.25 ^g	(0.25) ^g
	Division 1.3	H-1 or H-2	5 ^{e, g}	(5) ^{e, g}		1 ^g	(1) ^g		1 ^g	(1) ^g
	Division 1.4	H-3	50 ^{e, g}	(50) ^{e, g}		50 ^g	(50) ^g		NA	NA
	Division 1.4 G	H-3	125 ^{e, l}	NA		NA	NA		NA	NA
	Division 1.5	H-1	1 ^{e, g}	(1) ^{e, g}		0.25 ^g	(0.25) ^g		0.25 ^g	(0.25) ^g

	Division 1.6	H-1	1 ^{e, g}	NA		NA	NA		NA	NA
Flammable gas	Gaseous	H-2	NA	NA	1,000 ^{d,e}	NA	NA	1,000 ^{d,e}	NA	NA
	Liquefied			(150) ^{d,e}	NA		(150) ^{d,e}	NA		
Flammable liquid ^c	IA	H-2 or H-3	NA	30 ^{d, e}	NA	NA	30 ^d	NA	NA	10 ^d
	IB and IC			120 ^{d, e}			120 ^d			30 ^d
Flammable liquid, combination (IA, IB, IC)	NA	H-2 or H-3	NA	120 ^{d, e, h}	NA	NA	120 ^{d, h}	NA	NA	30 ^{d, h}
Flammable solid	NA	H-3	125 ^{d, e}	NA	NA	125 ^d	NA	NA	25 ^d	NA
Inert gas	Gaseous	NA	NA	NA	NL	NA	NA	NL	NA	NA
	Liquefied	NA	NA	NA	NL	NA	NA	NL	NA	NA
Organic peroxide	UD	H-1	1 ^{e, g}	(1) ^{e, g}	NA	0.25 ^g	(0.25) ^g	NA	0.25 ^g	(0.25) ^g
	I	H-2	5 ^{d, e}	(5) ^{d, e}		1 ^d	(1) ^d		1 ^d	(1) ^d
	II	H-3	50 ^{d, e}	(50) ^{d, e}		50 ^d	(50) ^d		10 ^d	(10) ^d
	III	H-3	125 ^{d, e}	(125) ^{d, e}		125 ^d	(125) ^d		25 ^d	(25) ^d
	IV	NA	NL	NL		NL	NL		NL	NL
	V	NA	NL	NL		NL	NL		NL	NL
Oxidizer	4	H-1	1 ^g	(1) ^{e, g}	NA	0.25 ^g	(0.25) ^g	NA	0.25 ^g	(0.25) ^g
	3 ^k	H-2 or H-3	10 ^{d, e}	(10) ^{d, e}		2 ^d	(2) ^d		2 ^d	(2) ^d
	2	H-3	250 ^{d, e}	(250) ^{d, e}		250 ^d	(250) ^d		50 ^d	(50) ^d
	1	NA	4,000 ^{e, f}	(4,000) ^{e, f}		4,000 ^f	(4,000) ^f		1,000 ^f	(1,000) ^f
Oxidizing gas	Gaseous	H-3	NA	NA	1,500 ^{d,e}	NA	NA	1,500 ^{d,e}	NA	NA
	Liquefied			(150) ^{d, e}	NA		(150) ^{d,e}	NA		
Pyrophoric	NA	H-2	4 ^{e, g}	(4) ^{e, g}	50 ^{e, g}	1 ^g	(1) ^g	10 ^{e, g}	0	0
Unstable (reactive)	4	H-1	1 ^{e, g}	(1) ^{e, g}	10 ^{e, g}	0.25 ^g	(0.25) ^g	2 ^{e, g}	0.25 ^g	(0.25) ^g
	3	H-1 or H-2	5 ^{d, e}	(5) ^{d, e}	50 ^{d, e}	1 ^d	(1) ^d	10 ^{d, e}	1 ^d	(1) ^d
	2	H-3	50 ^{d, e}	(50) ^{d, e}	750 ^{d, e}	50 ^d	(50) ^d	750 ^{d, e}	10 ^d	(10) ^d
	1	NA	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL
Water reactive	3	H-2	5 ^{d, e}	(5) ^{d, e}	NA	5 ^d	(5) ^d	NA	1 ^d	(1) ^d
	2	H-3	50 ^{d, e}	(50) ^{d, e}		50 ^d	(50) ^d		10 ^d	(10) ^d
	1	NA	NL	NL		NL	NL		NL	NL

For SI: 1 cubic foot = 0.028 m³, 1 pound = 0.454 kg, 1 gallon = 3.785 L.

NL = Not Limited; NA = Not Applicable; UD = Unclassified Detonable.

- For use of control areas, see [Section 414.2](#).
- The aggregate quantity in use and storage shall not exceed the quantity specified for storage.
- The quantities of alcoholic beverages in retail and wholesale sales occupancies

shall not be limited provided the liquids are packaged in individual containers not exceeding 1.3 gallons. In retail and wholesale sales occupancies, the quantities of medicines, foodstuffs or consumer products, and cosmetics containing not more than 50 percent by volume of water-miscible liquids with the remainder of the solutions not being flammable, shall not be limited, provided that such materials are packaged in individual containers not exceeding 1.3 gallons.

d. Maximum allowable quantities shall be increased 100 percent in buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#). Where Note e also applies, the increase for both notes shall be applied accumulatively.

e. Maximum allowable quantities shall be increased 100 percent when stored in approved storage cabinets, day boxes, gas cabinets, gas rooms or exhausted enclosures or in listed safety cans in accordance with [Section 5003.9.10](#) of the *International Fire Code*. Where Note d also applies, the increase for both notes shall be applied accumulatively.

f. Quantities shall not be limited in a building equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#).

g. Allowed only in buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#).

h. Containing not more than the maximum allowable quantity per control area of Class IA, IB or IC flammable liquids.

i. The maximum allowable quantity shall not apply to fuel oil storage complying with [Section 605.4.2](#) of the *International Fire Code*.

j. Quantities in parentheses indicate quantity units in parentheses at the head of each column.

k. A maximum quantity of 220 pounds of solid or 22 gallons of liquid Class 3 oxidizers is allowed when such materials are necessary for maintenance purposes, operation or sanitation of equipment when the storage containers and the manner of storage are approved.

l. Net weight of the pyrotechnic composition of the fireworks. Where the net weight of the pyrotechnic composition of the fireworks is not known, 25 percent of the gross weight of the fireworks, including packaging, shall be used.

m. For gallons of liquids, divide the amount in pounds by 10 in accordance with [Section 5003.1.2](#) of the *International Fire Code*.

n. For storage and display quantities in Group M and storage quantities in Group S occupancies complying with [Section 414.2.5](#), see [Tables 414.2.5\(1\)](#) and [414.2.5\(2\)](#).

o. Densely packed baled cotton that complies with the packing requirements of [ISO 8115](#) shall not be included in this material class.

p. The following shall not be included in determining the maximum allowable quantities:

1. Liquid or gaseous fuel in fuel tanks on vehicles.
2. Liquid or gaseous fuel in fuel tanks on motorized equipment operated in accordance with the [International Fire Code](#).

3. Gaseous fuels in piping systems and fixed appliances regulated by the [International Fuel Gas Code](#).
4. Liquid fuels in piping systems and fixed appliances regulated by the [International Mechanical Code](#).
5. Alcohol-based hand rubs classified as Class I or II liquids in dispensers that are installed in accordance with [Sections 5705.5](#) and [5705.5.1](#) of the *International Fire Code*. The location of the alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) dispensers shall be provided in the construction documents.
- q. Where manufactured, generated or used in such a manner that the concentration and conditions create a fire or explosion hazard based on information prepared in accordance with [Section 414.1.3](#).

TABLE 307.1(2)

[F] TABLE 307.1(2)

MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE QUANTITY PER CONTROL AREA OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS POSING A HEALTH HAZARD^{a, c, f, h, i}

MATERIAL	STORAGE ^b			USE-CLOSED SYSTEMS ^b			USE-OPEN SYSTEMS ^b	
	Solid pounds	Liquid gallons (pounds) ^{d, e}	Gas cubic feet at NTP (pounds) ^d	Solid pounds ^d	Liquid gallons (pounds) ^d	Gas cubic feet at NTP (pounds) ^d	Solid pounds ^d	Liquid gallons (pounds) ^d
Corrosives	5,000	500	Gaseous 810 ^e	5,000	500	Gaseous 810 ^e	1,000	100
			Liquefied (150)			Liquefied (150)		
Highly Toxic	10	(10)	Gaseous 20 ^g	10	(10)	Gaseous 20 ^g	3	(3)
			Liquefied (4) ^g			Liquefied (4) ^g		
Toxic	500	(500)	Gaseous 810 ^e	500	(500)	Gaseous 810 ^e	125	(125)
			Liquefied (150) ^e			Liquefied (150) ^e		

For SI: 1 cubic foot = 0.028 m³, 1 pound = 0.454 kg, 1 gallon = 3.785 L.

- a. For use of control areas, see [Section 414.2](#).
- b. The aggregate quantity in use and storage shall not exceed the quantity specified for storage.
- c. In retail and wholesale sales occupancies, the quantities of medicines, foodstuffs or consumer products, and cosmetics containing not more than 50 percent by volume of water-miscible liquids and with the remainder of the solutions not being flammable, shall not be limited, provided that such materials are packaged in individual containers not exceeding 1.3 gallons.
- d. Maximum allowable quantities shall be increased 100 percent in buildings equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#). Where Note e also applies, the increase for both notes shall be applied accumulatively.
- e. Maximum allowable quantities shall be increased 100 percent where stored in approved storage cabinets, gas cabinets or exhausted enclosures as specified in the [International Fire Code](#). Where Note d also applies, the increase for both notes shall be applied accumulatively.
- f. For storage and display quantities in Group M and storage quantities in Group S occupancies complying with [Section 414.2.5](#), see [Tables 414.2.5\(1\)](#) and [414.2.5\(2\)](#).
- g. Allowed only where stored in approved exhausted gas cabinets or exhausted

enclosures as specified in the [International Fire Code](#).

- h. Quantities in parentheses indicate quantity units in parentheses at the head of each column.
- i. For gallons of liquids, divide the amount in pounds by 10 in accordance with [Section 5003.1.2](#) of the [International Fire Code](#).

[F] 307.1.1 Uses other than Group H.

An occupancy that stores, uses or handles *hazardous materials* as described in one or more of the following items shall not be classified as Group H, but shall be classified as the occupancy that it most nearly resembles.

1. Buildings and structures occupied for the application of flammable finishes, provided that such buildings or areas conform to the requirements of [Section 416](#) and the [International Fire Code](#).
2. Wholesale and retail sales and storage of flammable and combustible liquids in mercantile occupancies conforming to the [International Fire Code](#).
3. Closed piping system containing *flammable or combustible liquids* or gases utilized for the operation of machinery or equipment.
4. Cleaning establishments that utilize *combustible liquid* solvents having a *flash point* of 140°F (60°C) or higher in closed systems employing equipment *listed* by an *approved* testing agency, provided that this occupancy is separated from all other areas of the building by 1-hour *fire barriers* constructed in accordance with [Section 707](#) or 1-hour *horizontal assemblies* constructed in accordance with [Section 711](#), or both.
5. Cleaning establishments that utilize a liquid solvent having a *flash point* at or above 200°F (93°C).
6. Liquor stores and distributors without bulk storage.
7. Refrigeration systems.
8. The storage or utilization of materials for agricultural purposes on the premises.
9. Stationary storage battery systems installed in accordance with the [International Fire Code](#).
10. *Corrosive* personal or household products in their original packaging used in retail display.
11. Commonly used *corrosive* building materials.
12. Buildings and structures occupied for [aerosol product storage, aerosol cooking spray products or plastic aerosol 3 products shall be classified as](#) Group S-1, provided that such buildings conform to the requirements of the [International Fire Code](#).
13. Display and storage of nonflammable solid and nonflammable or noncombustible liquid *hazardous materials* in quantities not exceeding the maximum allowable quantity per *control area* in Group M or S occupancies complying with [Section 414.2.5](#).
14. The storage of black powder, smokeless propellant and small arms primers in Groups M and R-3 and special industrial *explosive* devices in Groups B, F, M and S, provided such storage conforms to the quantity limits and requirements prescribed in the [International Fire Code](#).
15. Stationary fuel cell power systems installed in accordance with the [International Fire Code](#).
16. Capacitor energy storage systems in accordance with the [International Fire Code](#).
17. Group B *higher education laboratory* occupancies complying with [Section 428](#) and [Chapter 38](#) of the [International Fire Code](#).
18. [Distilling or brewing of beverages conforming to the requirements of the](#) [International Fire Code](#).
19. [The storage of beer, distilled spirits and wines in barrels and casks conforming to the requirements of the](#) [International Fire Code](#).

[F] 307.2 Hazardous materials.

Hazardous materials in any quantity shall conform to the requirements of this code, including [Section 414](#), and the [International Fire Code](#).

[F] 307.3 High-hazard Group H-1.

Buildings and structures containing materials that pose a detonation hazard shall be classified as Group H-1. Such materials shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Detonable *pyrophoric* materials

Explosives:

- [Division 1.1](#)
- [Division 1.2](#)
- [Division 1.3](#)
- [Division 1.4](#)

Division 1.5

Division 1.6

Organic peroxides, unclassified detonable

Oxidizers, Class 4

Unstable (reactive) materials, Class 3 detonable and Class 4

[F] 307.3.1 Occupancies containing explosives not classified as H-1.

The following occupancies containing *explosive* materials shall be classified as follows:

1. Division 1.3 *explosive* materials that are used and maintained in a form where either confinement or configuration will not elevate the hazard from a mass fire to mass *explosion* hazard shall be allowed in H-2 occupancies.
2. Articles, including articles packaged for shipment, that are not regulated as a Division 1.4 *explosive* under Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives regulations, or unpackaged articles used in process operations that do not propagate a detonation or deflagration between articles shall be allowed in H-3 occupancies.

[F] 307.4 High-hazard Group H-2.

Buildings and structures containing materials that pose a deflagration hazard or a hazard from accelerated burning shall be classified as Group H-2. Such materials shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Class I, II or IIIA *flammable or combustible liquids* that are used or stored in normally open containers or systems, or in closed containers or systems pressurized at more than 15 pounds per square inch gauge (103.4 kPa).

Combustible dusts where manufactured, generated or used in such a manner that the concentration and conditions create a fire or explosion hazard based on information prepared in accordance with [Section 414.1.3](#).

Cryogenic fluids, flammable.

Flammable gases.

Organic peroxides, Class I.

Oxidizers, Class 3, that are used or stored in normally open containers or systems, or in closed containers or systems pressurized at more than 15 pounds per square inch gauge (103 kPa).

Pyrophoric liquids, solids and gases, nondetonable.

Unstable (reactive) materials, Class 3, nondetonable.

Water-reactive materials, Class 3.

[F] 307.5 High-hazard Group H-3.

Buildings and structures containing materials that readily support combustion or that pose a *physical hazard* shall be classified as Group H-3. Such materials shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Class I, II or IIIA *flammable or combustible liquids* that are used or stored in normally closed containers or systems pressurized at 15 pounds per square inch gauge (103.4 kPa) or less

Combustible fibers, other than densely packed *baled cotton*, where manufactured, generated or used in such a manner that the concentration and conditions create a fire or *explosion* hazard based on information prepared in accordance with [Section 414.1.3](#)

Consumer *fireworks*, 1.4G (Class C, Common)

Cryogenic fluids, oxidizing

Flammable solids

Organic peroxides, Class II and III

Oxidizers, Class 2

Oxidizers, Class 3, that are used or stored in normally closed containers or systems pressurized at 15 pounds per square inch gauge (103 kPa) or less

Oxidizing gases

Unstable (reactive) materials, Class 2

Water-reactive materials, Class 2

[F] 307.6 High-hazard Group H-4.

Buildings and structures containing materials that are *health hazards* shall be classified as Group H-4. Such materials shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Corrosives

Highly toxic materials

Toxic materials

[F] 307.7 High-hazard Group H-5.

Semiconductor fabrication facilities and comparable research and development areas in which hazardous production materials (HPM) are used and the aggregate quantity of materials is in excess of those specified in [Table 307.1\(1\)](#) and [\[F\] Table 307.1\(2\)](#) shall be classified as Group H-5. Such facilities and areas shall be designed and constructed in accordance with [Section 415.11](#).

[F] 307.8 Multiple hazards.

Buildings and structures containing a material or materials representing hazards that are classified in one or more of Groups H-1, H-2, H-3 and H-4 shall conform to the code requirements for each of the occupancies so classified.

CHAPTER 3 OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION AND USE

SECTION 308 INSTITUTIONAL GROUP I

308.1 Institutional Group I.

Institutional Group I occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, in which care or supervision is provided to persons who are or are *incapable of self-preservation* without physical assistance or in which persons are detained for penal or correctional purposes or in which the liberty of the occupants is restricted. Institutional occupancies shall be classified as Group I-1, I-2, I-3 or I-4.

308.2 Institutional Group I-1.

Institutional Group I-1 occupancy shall include buildings, structures or portions thereof for more than 16 persons, excluding staff, who reside on a *24-hour basis* in a supervised environment and receive *custodial care*. Buildings of Group I-1 shall be classified as one of the occupancy conditions specified in [Section 308.2.1](#) or [308.2.2](#) and shall comply with [Section 420](#). This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Alcohol and drug centers
- Assisted living facilities
- Congregate care facilities
- Group homes
- Halfway houses
- Residential board and care facilities
- Social rehabilitation facilities

308.2.1 Condition 1.

This occupancy condition shall include buildings in which all persons receiving *custodial care* who, without any assistance, are capable of responding to an emergency situation to complete building evacuation.

308.2.2 Condition 2.

This occupancy condition shall include buildings in which there are any persons receiving *custodial care* who require limited verbal or physical assistance while responding to an emergency situation to complete building evacuation.

308.2.3 Six to 16 persons receiving custodial care.

A facility housing not fewer than six and not more than 16 persons receiving *custodial care* shall be classified as Group R-4.

308.2.4 Five or fewer persons receiving custodial care.

A facility with five or fewer persons receiving *custodial care* shall be classified as Group R-3 or shall comply with the [International Residential Code](#) provided an *automatic sprinkler system* is installed in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.3](#) or [Section P2904](#) of the *International Residential Code*.

308.3 Institutional Group I-2.

Institutional Group I-2 occupancy shall include buildings and structures used for *medical care* on a *24-hour basis* for more than five persons who are *incapable of self-preservation*. This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Foster care facilities
- Detoxification facilities
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Psychiatric hospitals

308.3.1 Occupancy conditions.

Buildings of Group I-2 shall be classified as one of the occupancy conditions [specified in Section 308.3.1.1](#) or [308.3.1.2](#) and shall comply with [Section 407](#).

308.3.1.1 Condition 1.

This occupancy condition shall include facilities that provide nursing and *medical care* but do not provide emergency care, surgery, obstetrics or in-patient stabilization units for psychiatric or detoxification, including but not limited to *nursing homes* and *foster care facilities*.

308.3.1.2 Condition 2.

This occupancy condition shall include facilities that provide nursing and *medical care* and could provide emergency care, surgery, obstetrics or in-patient stabilization units for psychiatric or detoxification, including but not limited to *hospitals*.

308.3.2 Five or fewer persons receiving *medical care*.

A facility with five or fewer persons receiving *medical care* shall be classified as Group R-3 or shall comply with the [International Residential Code](#) provided an *automatic sprinkler system* is installed in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.3](#) or [Section P2904](#) of the *International Residential Code*.

308.4 Institutional Group I-3.

Institutional Group I-3 occupancy shall include buildings and structures that are inhabited by more than five persons who are under restraint or security. A Group I-3 facility is occupied by persons who are generally *incapable of self-preservation* due to security measures not under the occupants' control. This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Correctional centers
- Detention centers
- Jails
- Prerelease centers
- Prisons
- Reformatories

Buildings of Group I-3 shall be classified as one of the occupancy conditions specified in [Sections 308.4.1](#) through [308.4.5](#) and shall comply with [Section 408](#).

308.4.1 Condition 1.

This occupancy condition shall include buildings in which free movement is allowed from sleeping areas, and other spaces where access or occupancy is permitted, to the exterior via *means of egress* without restraint. A Condition 1 facility is permitted to be constructed as Group R.

308.4.2 Condition 2.

This occupancy condition shall include buildings in which free movement is allowed from sleeping areas and any other occupied *smoke compartment* to one or more other *smoke compartments*. Egress to the exterior is impeded by locked exits.

308.4.3 Condition 3.

This occupancy condition shall include buildings in which free movement is allowed within individual *smoke compartments*, such as within a residential unit composed of individual *sleeping units* and group activity spaces, where egress is impeded by remote-controlled release of *means of egress* from such a *smoke compartment* to another *smoke compartment*.

308.4.4 Condition 4.

This occupancy condition shall include buildings in which free movement is restricted from an occupied space. Remote-controlled release is provided to permit movement from *sleeping units*, activity spaces and other occupied areas within the *smoke compartment* to other *smoke compartments*.

308.4.5 Condition 5.

This occupancy condition shall include buildings in which free movement is restricted from an occupied space. Staff-controlled manual release is provided to permit movement from *sleeping units*, activity spaces and other occupied areas within the *smoke compartment* to other *smoke compartments*.

308.5 Institutional Group I-4, day care facilities.

Institutional Group I-4 occupancy shall include buildings and structures occupied by more than five persons of any age who receive *custodial care* for fewer than 24 hours per day by persons other than parents or guardians; relatives by blood, marriage or adoption; and in a place other than the home of the person cared for. This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Adult day care
- Child day care

308.5.1 Classification as Group E.

A child day care facility that provides care for more than five but not more than 100 children $\frac{2}{2}$ years or less of age, where the rooms in which the children are cared for are located on a *level of exit discharge* serving such rooms and each of these child care rooms has an *exit* door directly to the exterior, shall be classified as Group E.

308.5.2 Within a place of religious worship.

Rooms and spaces within *places of religious worship* providing such care during religious functions shall be classified as part of the primary occupancy.

308.5.3 Five or fewer persons receiving care.

A facility having five or fewer persons receiving *custodial care* shall be classified as part of the primary occupancy.

308.5.4 Five or fewer persons receiving care in a dwelling unit.

A facility such as the above within a *dwelling unit* and having five or fewer persons receiving *custodial care* shall be classified as a Group R-3 occupancy or shall comply with the [*International Residential Code*](#).

CHAPTER 3 OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION AND USE

SECTION 309 MERCANTILE GROUP M

309.1 Mercantile Group M.

Mercantile Group M occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure or a portion thereof for the display and sale of merchandise, and involves stocks of goods, wares or [merchandise incidental to such purposes and where the public has access](#). [Mercantile occupancies shall include, but](#) not be limited to, the following:

- Department stores

- Drug stores

- Markets

- Greenhouses* for display and sale of plants that provide public access.

- Motor fuel-dispensing facilities

- Retail or wholesale stores

- Sales rooms

309.2 Quantity of hazardous materials.

The aggregate quantity of nonflammable solid and nonflammable or noncombustible liquid *hazardous materials* stored or displayed in a single *control area* of a Group M occupancy shall not exceed the quantities in [Table 414.2.5\(1\)](#).

309.3 Motor fuel-dispensing facilities.

[Motor fuel-dispensing facilities shall comply with](#) [Section 406.7](#).

CHAPTER 3 OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION AND USE

SECTION 310 RESIDENTIAL GROUP R

310.1 Residential Group R.

Residential Group R includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for sleeping purposes when not classified as an Institutional Group I or when not regulated by the [International Residential Code](#). [Group R occupancies not constructed in accordance with the International Residential Code as permitted by Sections 310.4.1 and 310.4.2 shall comply with Section 420.](#)

310.2 Residential Group R-1.

Residential Group R-1 occupancies containing *sleeping units* where the occupants are primarily *transient* in nature, including:

- Boarding houses (transient)* with more than 10 occupants
- Congregate living facilities (transient)* with more than 10 occupants
- Hotels (*transient*)
- Motels (*transient*)

310.3 Residential Group R-2.

Residential Group R-2 occupancies containing *sleeping units* or more than two *dwelling units* where the occupants are primarily permanent in nature, including:

- Apartment houses
- Congregate living facilities* (nontransient) with more than 16 occupants
 - Boarding houses (nontransient)*
 - Convents
 - Dormitories*
 - Fraternities and sororities
 - Monasteries
- Hotels (nontransient)
- Live/work units*
- Motels (nontransient)
- Vacation timeshare properties

310.4 Residential Group R-3.

Residential Group R-3 occupancies where the occupants are primarily permanent in nature and not classified as Group R-1, R-2, R-4 or I, including:

- Buildings that do not contain more than two *dwelling units*
- Care facilities that provide accommodations for five or fewer persons receiving care
- Congregate living facilities* (nontransient) with 16 or fewer occupants
 - Boarding houses (nontransient)*
 - Convents
 - Dormitories*
 - Fraternities and sororities
 - Monasteries
- Congregate living facilities (transient)* with 10 or fewer occupants
 - Boarding houses (transient)*
- Lodging houses (transient)* with five or fewer *guest rooms* and 10 or fewer occupants

310.4.1 Care facilities within a dwelling.

Care facilities for five or fewer persons receiving care that are within a single-family dwelling are permitted to comply with the [International Residential Code](#) provided an *automatic sprinkler system* is installed in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.3](#) or [Section P2904](#) of the [International Residential Code](#).

310.4.2 Lodging houses.

Owner-occupied *lodging houses* with five or fewer *guest rooms* and 10 or fewer total occupants shall be permitted to be constructed in accordance with the [International Residential Code](#), [provided that an automatic sprinkler system is installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.3 or Section P2904 of the International Residential Code.](#)

310.5 Residential Group R-4.

Residential Group R-4 occupancy shall include buildings, structures or portions thereof for more than five but not more than 16 persons, excluding staff, who reside on a *24-hour basis* in a supervised residential environment and receive *custodial care*. Buildings of Group R-4 shall be classified as one of the occupancy conditions specified in [Section 310.5.1](#) or [310.5.2](#). This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Alcohol and drug centers
- Assisted living facilities
- Congregate care facilities
- Group homes*
- Halfway houses
- Residential board and care facilities
- Social rehabilitation facilities

Group R-4 occupancies shall meet the requirements for construction as defined for Group R-3, except as otherwise provided for in this code.

310.5.1 Condition 1.

This occupancy condition shall include buildings in which all persons receiving *custodial care*, without any assistance, are capable of responding to an emergency situation to complete building evacuation.

310.5.2 Condition 2.

This occupancy condition shall include buildings in which there are any persons receiving *custodial care* who require limited verbal or physical assistance while responding to an emergency situation to complete building evacuation.

CHAPTER 3 OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION AND USE

SECTION 311 STORAGE GROUP S

311.1 Storage Group S.

Storage Group S occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for storage that is not classified as a hazardous occupancy.

311.1.1 Accessory storage spaces.

A room or space used for storage purposes that is accessory to another occupancy shall be classified as part of that occupancy.

311.1.2 Combustible storage.

High-piled stock or rack storage, *or attic*, under-floor and concealed spaces used for storage of combustible materials, shall be in accordance with [Section 413](#).

311.2 Moderate-hazard storage, Group S-1.

Storage Group S-1 occupancies are buildings occupied for storage uses that are not classified as Group S-2, including, but not limited to, storage of the following:

Aerosol products, Levels 2 and 3
Aircraft hangar (storage and repair)
Bags: cloth, burlap and paper
Bamboos and rattan
Baskets
Belting: canvas and leather
[Beverages over 16-percent alcohol content](#)
Books and paper in rolls or packs
Boots and shoes
Buttons, including cloth covered, pearl or bone
Cardboard and cardboard boxes
Clothing, woolen wearing apparel
Cordage
Dry boat storage (indoor)
Furniture
Furs
Glues, mucilage, pastes and size
Grains
Horns and combs, other than celluloid
Leather
Linoleum
Lumber
Motor vehicle *repair garages* complying with the maximum allowable quantities of *hazardous materials* specified in [Table 307.1\(1\)](#) (see [Section 406.8](#))
Photo engravings
Resilient flooring
Self-service storage facility (mini-storage)
Silks
Soaps
Sugar
Tires, bulk storage of
Tobacco, cigars, cigarettes and snuff
Upholstery and mattresses
Wax candles

311.2.1 Aircraft hangers.

Aircraft hangars used for storage or repair shall comply with [Section 412.3](#).

311.2.2 Motor vehicle repair garages

Motor vehicle *repair garages* shall comply with [Section 406.8](#).

311.3 Low-hazard storage, Group S-2.

Storage Group S-2 occupancies include, among others, buildings used for the storage of noncombustible materials such as products on wood pallets or in paper cartons with or without single thickness divisions; or in paper wrappings. Such products are permitted to have a negligible amount of plastic *trim*, such as knobs, handles or film wrapping. Group S-2 storage uses shall include, but not be limited to, storage of the following:

- Asbestos
- Beverages up to and including 16-percent alcohol
- Cement in bags
- Chalk and crayons
- Dairy products in nonwaxed coated paper containers
- Dry cell batteries
- Electrical coils
- Electrical motors
- Empty cans
- Food products
- Foods in noncombustible containers
- Fresh fruits and vegetables in nonplastic trays or containers
- Frozen foods
- Glass
- Glass bottles, empty or filled with noncombustible liquids
- Gypsum board*
- Inert pigments
- Ivory
- Meats
- Metal cabinets
- Metal desks with plastic tops and *trim*
- Metal parts
- Metals
- Mirrors
- Oil-filled and other types of distribution transformers
- [Public parking garages, open or enclosed](#)
- Porcelain and pottery
- Stoves
- Talc and soapstones
- Washers and dryers

311.3.1 Public parking garages.

Public parking garages shall comply with [Section 406.4](#) and the additional requirements of [Section 406.5](#) for *open parking garages* or [Section 406.6](#) for enclosed parking garages.

CHAPTER 3 OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION AND USE

SECTION 312 UTILITY AND MISCELLANEOUS GROUP U

312.1 General.

Buildings and structures of an accessory character and miscellaneous structures not classified in any specific occupancy shall be constructed, equipped and maintained to conform to the requirements of this code commensurate with the fire and life hazard incidental to their occupancy. Group U shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Agricultural buildings

Aircraft hangars, accessory to a one- or two-family residence (see [Section 412.4](#))

Barns

Carports

Communication equipment structures with a *gross floor area* of less than 1,500 square feet (139 m²)

[Fences more than 7 feet \(2134 mm\) in height](#)

Grain silos, accessory to a residential occupancy

Livestock shelters

Private garages

Retaining walls

Sheds

Stables

Tanks

Towers

312.1.1 Greenhouses.

Greenhouses not classified as another occupancy shall be classified as Use Group U.

312.2 Private garages and carports.

Private garages and carports shall comply with [Section 406.3](#).

312.3 Residential aircraft hangars.

Aircraft hangars accessory to a one- or two-family residence shall comply with [Section 412.4](#).