

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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; 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.

**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.

**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.

Exceptions:

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.
2. Small assembly spaces. The following rooms and spaces shall not be classified as Assembly occupancies:
  - 2.1. 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.
  - 2.2. A room or space used for assembly purposes that is less than 750 square feet in area and accessory to another occupancy shall be classified as a Group B occupancy or as part of that occupancy.
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.
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.

**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; 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 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).

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**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.

Exception - 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.

Group E, day care facilities. This group includes buildings and structures or portions thereof occupied by more than five children older than 2 1/2 years of age who receive educational, supervision or personal care services for fewer than 24 hours per day.

Exceptions:

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.
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.
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.

**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.

**Group F-1 (moderate-hazard factory industrial)**. 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; Engines (including rebuilding); Food processing establishments and commercial kitchens not associated with restaurants, cafeterias and similar dining facilities more than 2,500 square feet 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; Wood, distillation; Woodworking (cabinet).

**Group F-2 (low-hazard factory industrial)**. 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).

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**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.

**Group H-1**. Buildings and structures containing materials that pose a detonation hazard.

**Group H-2**. Buildings and structures containing materials that pose a deflagration hazard or a hazard from accelerated burning.

**Group H-3**. Buildings and structures containing materials that readily support combustion or that pose a physical hazard.

**Group H-4**. Buildings and structures containing materials that are health hazards.

**Group H-5**. Semiconductor fabrication facilities and comparable research and development areas in which hazardous production materials (HPM).

**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 where evacuation is slow or impractical 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. (See also [Bulletin 15-3](#).)

**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, receive custodial care and are capable of slow evacuation. Buildings of Group I-1 shall be classified as one of the occupancy conditions specified in Section 308.3.1 or 308.3.2. This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following: Alcohol and drug treatment centers; Boarding houses; Residential health care facilities; Group homes; Halfway houses; Residential board and care facilities; Social rehabilitation facilities.

Exceptions:

1. 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.
2. 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.

**Group I-2** occupancy shall include buildings and structures used for medical care on a 24-hour basis for more than five persons where evacuation is impractical. This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following: Assisted living facilities; Detoxification facilities; Hospitals; Nursing homes; Psychiatric hospitals.

Exception – 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 903.3.1.1.

**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 where evacuation is impractical 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.

**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.

Exceptions:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

**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 accessible to the public. Mercantile occupancies shall include, but not be limited to, the following: Department stores; Drug stores; Markets; Motor fuel-dispensing facilities; Retail or wholesale stores; Sales rooms.

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**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. (See also [Bulletin 15-3](#).)

**Group R-1** occupancies containing sleeping units where the occupants are primarily transient, including: Boarding houses (transient) with more than 10 occupants; Congregate living facilities (transient) with more than 10 occupants; Hotels; Motels; Vacation timeshare properties.

**Group R-2** occupancies containing sleeping units or more than two dwelling units where the occupants are primarily permanent, including: Apartment houses; Convents; Dormitories; Fraternities and sororities; Live/work units; Monasteries; Rooming houses with more than 5 occupants.

**Group R-3** occupancies where the occupants are primarily permanent and not classified as Group R-1, R-2, R-4 or I, including: Alcohol and drug treatment houses with 5 or fewer residents; Buildings that do not contain more than two dwelling units; Boarding houses with 5 or fewer occupants; Care facilities that provide accommodations for five or fewer persons receiving care; Detached one- and two-family dwellings greater than three stories in height, multiple single-family townhouses greater than three stories in height, attached two-family dwellings separated from adjacent units by firewalls, and other one- and two-family dwellings that are outside the scope of the one- and two-family dwelling subcode; Group homes with five or fewer occupants in accordance with Section 308.3.4; Rooming houses with five or fewer occupants; Single residential occupancies, accessory to a dwelling unit, having no more than five roomers or lodgers (Single occupancies, accessory to a dwelling unit, having more than five roomers or lodgers shall be classified as Group R-2 or I-1, as appropriate).

**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, receive custodial care and are capable of slow evacuation. Buildings of Group R-4 shall be classified as one of the occupancy conditions specified in Section 310.6.1 or 310.6.2. This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following: Alcohol and drug treatment centers; Boarding houses; Group homes; Halfway houses; Residential board and care facilities; Social rehabilitation facilities.

**Group R-5** occupancies shall include all detached one- and two-family dwellings not more than three stories in height with a separate means of egress and multiple single-family townhouses not more than three stories in height with a separate means of egress designed and constructed in accordance with the International Residential Code. This Group shall also include: Care facilities that provide accommodations for five or fewer persons receiving care; Single residential occupancies, accessory to a dwelling unit, having no more than five roomers or lodgers (Single occupancies, accessory to a dwelling unit, having more than five roomers or lodgers shall be classified as Group R-2 or I-1, as appropriate); Group Homes with 5 or fewer occupants in accordance with Section 308.3.4; Rooming houses with five or fewer residents.

**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.

Exception - Accessory storage spaces. A room or space used for storage purposes that is less than 100 square feet in area and accessory to another occupancy shall be classified as part of that occupancy. The aggregate area of such rooms or spaces shall not exceed the allowable area limits of Section 508.2.

**Group S-1 (Moderate-hazard storage)** occupancies are buildings occupied for storage uses that are not classified as Group S-2, including, but not limited to, storage of the following: Aerosols, Levels 2 and 3; Aircraft hangar (storage and repair); Bags: cloth, burlap and paper; Bamboos and rattan; Baskets; Belting: canvas and leather; 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 listed in Table 307.1(1) (see Section 406.8); Photo engravings; Resilient flooring; Silks; Soaps; Sugar; Tires, bulk storage of; Tobacco, cigars, cigarettes and snuff; Upholstery and mattresses; Wax candles.

**Group S-2 (Low-hazard storage)** 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 in metal, glass or ceramic containers; 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; Parking garages, open or enclosed; Porcelain and pottery; Stoves; Talc and soapstones; Washers and dryers.

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**UTILITY AND MISCELLANEOUS Group U.** 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 412.5); Barns; Carports; Fences more than 6 feet in height; Grain silos, accessory to a residential occupancy; Greenhouses; Livestock shelters; Private garages; Retaining walls; Sheds; Stables; Tanks; Towers.