

## **Use and Occupancy Classification**

Below is information regarding the classification of building and structure, or portions, thereof by group.

### **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. Assembly occupancies shall be classified as Groups A-1, A-2, A-3 or A-4.

#### **Assembly Performing Arts or Motion Pictures, Group A-1**

Assembly uses, usually with fixed seating, intended for the production and viewing of the performing arts or motion pictures including, but not limited to, the following:

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

#### **Assembly Food and/or Drink Consumption, Group A-2**

Assembly uses intended for food and/or drink consumption including, but not limited to, the following:

- Banquet halls
- Night clubs
- Restaurants
- Taverns and bars

#### **Assembly Worship, Recreation or Amusement, Group A-3**

Assembly uses intended for worship, recreation or amusement and other assembly uses not classified elsewhere in Group A including, but not limited to, the following:

Amusement arcades	Exhibition halls
Art galleries	Funeral parlors
Bowling alleys	Gymnasiums
Community halls	Indoor swimming pools
Courtrooms	Indoor tennis courts
Dance halls	Lecture halls

Libraries  
Museums  
Places of religious worship

Pool and billiard parlors  
Waiting areas in transportation terminals

**Assembly Indoor Sporting, Group A-4**

Assembly uses intended for viewing of indoor sporting events and activities with spectator seating including, but not limited to, the following:

Arenas  
Skating rinks  
Swimming pools  
Tennis courts

**Assembly Outdoor Activities, Group A-5**

Assembly uses intended for participation in or viewing outdoor activities including, but not limited to, the following:

Amusement park structures  
Bleachers  
Grandstands  
Stadiums

**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 health 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  
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 within a school or academic program

### **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. Educational occupancies shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Religious educational rooms (accessory to places of worship with 100 or more occupants)  
Religious auditoriums (accessory to places of worship with 100 or more occupants)  
Day care facilities (more than 5 children older than 2 ½ years of age)

### **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. Factory Industrial occupancies shall be classified as Groups F-1 or F-2.

#### **Factory Industrial moderate-hazard, Group F-1**

Factory industrial uses which 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:

Agricultural machinery	Business machines
Aircraft (manufacturing, not to include repair)	Cameras and photo equipment
Appliances	Canvas or similar fabric
Athletic equipment	Carpets and rugs
Automobiles	Clothing
Bakeries	Construction
Beverages: over 16% alcohol content	Disinfectants
Bicycles	Dry cleaning
Boats	Dyeing
Brooms or brushes	Electric generation plants
	Electronics
	Engines

Food processing	Photographic film
Furniture	Plastic products
Hemp products	Printing or publishing
Jute products	Recreational vehicles
Laundries	Refuse incineration
Leather products	Shoes
Machinery	Soaps and detergents
Metals	Television filming
Millwork	Textiles
Motion Pictures	Tobacco
Motor vehicles	Trailers
Musical instruments	Upholstering
Optical goods	Wood Distillation
Paper mills or products	Woodworking

### **Factory Industrial low-hazard, Group F-2**

Factory industrial uses that involve the fabrication or manufacturing of noncombustible materials which 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% alcohol content
- Brick and masonry
- Ceramic products
- Foundries
- Glass products
- Gypsum
- Ice
- Metal products

### **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. Hazardous occupancies shall be classified as Groups H-1, H-2, H-3, H-4 or H-5.

### **High-hazard detonation, Group H-1**

Buildings and structures containing materials that pose a detonation hazard shall be classified as Group H-1. Please Contact the Building Inspection Division for assistance.

**High-hazard deflagration or accelerated burning, 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. Please Contact the Building Inspection Division for assistance.

**High-hazard combustion or physical, 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. Please Contact the Building Inspection Division for assistance.

**High-hazard health, Group H-4**

Buildings and structures which contain materials that are health hazards shall be classified as Group H-4. Please Contact the Building Inspection Division for assistance.

**High-hazard semiconductor, research and development, Group H-5**

Semiconductor fabrication facilities and comparable research and development areas in which hazardous production materials are used and the aggregate quantity of materials is in excess of those listed. Please Contact the Building Inspection Division for assistance.

**Institutional Group I**

Institutional Group I occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, in which people are cared for or live in a supervised environment, having physical limitations because of health or age are harbored for medical treatment or other care or treatment, or in which people 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.

**Institutional personal care services, Group I-1**

This occupancy shall include buildings, structures or portions thereof for more than 16 persons who reside on a 24 hour basis in a supervised environment and receive custodial care. The persons receiving care are capable of self preservation. This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

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

Social rehabilitation facilities

**Institutional medical, surgical, psychiatric, nursing or custodial care, Group I-2**

This occupancy shall include buildings and structures used for medical, surgical, psychiatric, nursing or custodial care for persons who are not capable of self-preservation. This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

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

**Institutional restraint or security, Group I-3**

This occupancy shall include buildings and structures that are inhabited by more than five persons who are under restraint or security. An 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

**Institutional care facilities, Group I-4**

This group shall include buildings and structures occupied by persons of any age who receive custodial care for less than 24 hours by individuals other than parents or guardians, relatives by blood, marriage or adoption, and in a place other than the home of the person cared for and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Adult care facility
- Child care facility

**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 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

### **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. Residential occupancies shall be classified as Group R-1, R-2, R-3 or R-4.

#### **Residential transient, Group R-1**

Residential occupancies where the occupants are primarily transient in nature, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Boarding houses
- Hotels
- Motels

#### **Residential nontransient, Group R-2**

Residential occupancies where the occupants are primarily permanent in nature, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Apartment houses
- Boarding houses
- Convents
- Dormitories
- Fraternities and sororities
- Hotels
- Live/work units
- Monasteries
- Motels
- Vacation timeshare properties

#### **Residential permanent, Group R-3**

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

Adult care facilities (five or fewer persons of any age for less than 24 hours)  
Child care facilities (five or fewer persons of any age for less than 24 hours.)  
Congregate living facilities (16 or fewer persons)  
Duplex dwelling units  
Single family dwelling units

**Residential care/assisted living facilities, Group R-4**

Residential occupancies where the occupants are primarily permanent in nature and are arranged for, more than 5 but not more than 16 persons, excluding staff, who reside on a 24 hour basis in a supervised environment and receive custodial care. The persons receiving care are capable of self preservation. This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

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

**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. Storage occupancies shall be classified as Group S-1 or S-2.

**Storage moderate-hazard, Group S-1**

Buildings occupied for storage uses that are not classified as Group S-2, including, but not limited to, the following:

Aerosols, Levels 2 and 3	Buttons
Aircraft hangar	Cardboard and cardboard boxes
Bags: cloth, burlap and paper	Clothing, woolen wearing apparel
Bamboos and rattan	Cordage
Baskets	Dry boat storage
Belting: canvas and leather	Furniture
Books and paper in rolls or packs	Furs
Boots and shoes	Glues, mucilage, pastes and size
	Grains

Horns and combs  
Leather  
Linoleum  
Lumber  
Mattresses  
Motor vehicle repair garages  
Photo engravings  
Resilient flooring

Silks  
Soaps  
Sugar  
Tires  
Tobacco, cigars, cigarettes and snuff  
Upholstery  
Wax candles

### **Storage low-hazard, Group S-2**

Includes, 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, 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

### **Utility and Miscellaneous Group U**

Buildings and structures of an accessory character and miscellaneous structures not classified in any specific occupancy. Group U shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Agricultural buildings  
Barns  
Carports  
Fences more than 6 feet high  
Greenhouses  
Livestock shelters  
Private garages

Residential aircraft hangars\*  
Residential grain silos\*\*  
Retaining walls  
Sheds  
Stables  
Tanks  
Towers

\* Accessory to a one or two family residence

\*\* Accessory to a residential occupancy

The information provided above is for general use only, additional information is available in the International Building Code specifically Chapter 3 Use and Occupancy Classifications.