

OCCUPANCY AND USE CLASSIFICATION (Source – 2011 Ohio Fire Code)

Assembly Group A

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

EXCEPTIONS:

1. A building or tenant space used for assembly purposes with an occupant load of less than fifty persons shall be classified as a **Group B** (business) occupancy.
2. A room or space used for assembly purposes with an occupant load of less than fifty persons and accessory to another occupancy shall be classified as a **Group B** (business) occupancy or classified as part of that occupancy.
3. 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** (business) occupancy or classified as part of that occupancy.
4. Assembly areas that are accessory to **Group E** occupancies are not considered separate occupancies except when applying the assembly occupancy requirements of Chapter 11 of the building code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-47 of the Administrative Code.
5. Accessory religious educational rooms and religious auditoriums with occupant loads of less than one hundred are not considered separate occupancies.

Assembly occupancies shall include the following:

- **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:
 - Motion picture theaters
 - Symphony and concert halls
 - Television and radio studios admitting an audience
 - Theaters
- **A-2:** Assembly uses intended for food and/or drink consumption, including but not limited to:
 - Banquet halls
 - Night clubs
 - Restaurants
 - Taverns or bars
- **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:
 - 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
- **A-4:** 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
- **A-5:** Assembly uses intended for participation in or viewing outdoor activities including, but not limited to:
 - 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 and outpatient clinics
- Animal hospitals, kennels, or pounds
- Banks
- Barber and beauty shops
- Car Wash
- Civic administration
- 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.

- Religious educational rooms and religious auditoriums, which are accessory to places of worship and have occupant loads of less than one hundred, shall be classified as **Group A-3** occupancies.
- Day care. The use of a building or structure, or portion thereof, for educational, supervision or personal care services for more than five children older than 2½ years of age, is classified as a **Group E** occupancy

Factory and 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 **Group H** high-hazard or **Group S** storage occupancy.

- **Factory Industrial F-1 Moderate-Hazard Occupancy:** Factory Industrial uses which are not classified as Factory Industrial **Group 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 in alcohol content
 - Bicycles
 - Boats
 - Brooms or brushes
 - Business machines
 - Cameras and photo equipment
 - Canvas and 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
 - 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
 - Refuse incineration
 - Shoes
 - Soaps and detergents
 - Textiles
 - Tobacco
 - Trailers
 - Upholstering
 - Wood: distillation
 - Woodworking (cabinet)
- **Factory Industrial F-2 Low-Hazard Occupancy:** Factory industrial uses involving the fabrication or manufacturing of noncombustible materials which, during finishing, packaging or processing do not involve a significant fire-hazard, shall be classified as **Group 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)

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 paragraph (C)(8)(c)(2703.8.3) of rule 1301:7-7-27 of the Administrative Code, based

on the maximum allowable quantity limits for control areas set forth in Tables 2703.1.1(1) and 2703.1.1(2) of rule 1301:7-7-27 of the Administrative Code. Hazardous occupancies are classified in **Groups H-1, H-2, H-3, H-4 and H-5** and shall be in accordance with this code and the requirements of Section 415 of the building code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-47 of the Administrative Code. Hazardous materials stored or used on top of roofs or canopies shall be classified as outdoor storage and shall comply with this code.

EXCEPTIONS:

1. Buildings and structures occupied for the application of flammable finishes, provided that such buildings or areas conform to the requirements of rule 1301:7-7-15 of the Administrative Code and Section 416 of the building code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-47 of the Administrative Code.
2. Wholesale and retail sales and storage of flammable and combustible liquids in mercantile occupancies conforming to rule 1301:7-7-34 of the Administrative 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 as an approved testing agency, provided that this occupancy is separated from all other areas of the building by 1-hour fire barriers in accordance with section 707 of the building code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-47 of the Administrative Code or 1-hour horizontal assemblies in accordance with section 712 of the building code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-47 of the Administrative Code.
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 batteries utilized for facility emergency power, uninterrupted power supply or telecommunication facilities, provided that the batteries are equipped with safety venting caps and ventilation is provided in accordance with the mechanical code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-47 of the Administrative Code.
10. Corrosives shall not include personal or household products in their original packaging used in retail display or commonly used building materials.
11. Buildings and structures occupied for aerosol storage shall be classified as **Group S-1**, provided that such buildings conform to the requirements of rule 1301:7-7-28 of the Administrative Code.
12. 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 paragraph (C)(8)(c)(v)(2703.8.3.5) of this rule 1301:7-7-27 of the Administrative Code.
13. 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 of this code.

- **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:
 - Explosives:
 - Division 1.1
 - Division 1.2
 - Division 1.3
 - Exception: Materials that are used and maintained in a form where either confinement or configuration will not elevate the hazard from a mass tire to mass explosion hazard shall be allowed in **Group H-2** occupancies.
 - Division 1.4
 - Exception: Articles, including articles packaged for shipment, that are not regulated as an explosive under bureau of alcohol, tobacco and firearms regulations, or unpackaged articles used in process operations that do not propagate a detonation or deflagration between articles shall be allowed in **Group H-3** occupancies.
 - Division 1.5
 - Division 1.6
 - Organic peroxides, unclassified detonable
 - Oxidizers, Class 4
 - Unstable (reactive) materials, Class 3 detonable and Class 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 which 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
 - 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 (103.4 kPa)
 - Pyrophoric liquids, solids and gases, nondetonable
 - Unstable (reactive) materials, Class 3, nondetonable.
 - Water-reactive materials, Class 3

- **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 more than 15 pounds per square inch gauge (103.4 kPa) or less
 - Combustible fibers, other than densely packed baled cotton
 - Consumer fireworks, 1.4G (Class C, Common)
 - Cryogenic fluids, oxidizing
 - Flammable solids
 - Organic peroxides, Class II and Class III
 - Oxidizers, Class 2
 - Oxidizers, Class 3, that are used or stored in normally closed containers or systems pressurized at more than 15 pounds per square inch gauge (103 kPa) or less
 - Oxidizing gases
 - Unstable (reactive) materials, Class 2
 - Water-reactive materials, Class 3

- **High-hazard Group H-4:** Buildings and structures which contain 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

- **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 listed in Tables 2703.1.1(1) and 2703.1.1(2) of rule 1301:7-7-27 of the Administrative Code shall be classified as **Group H-5**. Such facilities and areas shall be designed and constructed in accordance with Section 415.8 of the building code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-47 of the Administrative Code.

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**.

- **Group I-1:** This occupancy shall include buildings, structures or parts thereof housing more than 16 persons, on a 24-hour basis, who because of age, mental disability or other reasons, live in a supervised residential environment that provides personal care services. The occupants are capable of responding to an emergency situation without physical assistance from staff. 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
- Half-way houses
- Residential board and care facilities
- Social rehabilitation facilities

- A facility such as the above with five or fewer persons shall be classified as **Group R-3** of shall comply with the residential code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-47 of the Administrative Code in accordance with Section 101.2 of the building code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-47 of the Administrative Code.
- A facility such as above, housing at least six and not more than sixteen persons, shall be classified as **Group R-4**.

- **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:
 - Child care facilities
 - Hospitals
 - Nursing homes (as defined in section 3721.01 of the Revised Code)
 - Mental hospitals
 - Detoxification facilities

- **Group I-3:** This occupancy shall include buildings and structures which 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

 - Buildings of **Group I-3** shall be classified as one of the occupancy conditions indicated below:
 - **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.
 - **Condition 2:** This occupancy condition shall include buildings in which free movement 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.

- **Condition 3:** This occupancy condition shall include buildings in which free movement is allowed within individual smoke compartments, such as within a residential unit comprised of individual sleeping units and group activity spaces, where egress is impeded by remote-controlled release of means of egress from such smoke compartment to another smoke compartment.
 - **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.
 - **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.
- **Group I-4, day care facilities:** 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. A facility such as the above with five or fewer persons shall be classified as **Group R-3** or shall comply with the residential code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-47 of the Administrative Code in accordance with Section 101.2 of the building code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-47 of the Administrative Code. Places of worship during religious functions are not included.
 - **Adult care facility:** A facility that provides accommodations for less than 24 hours for more than five unrelated adults and provides supervision and personal care services shall be classified as **Group I-4**.
 - **Exception:** Where the occupants are capable of responding to an emergency situation without physical assistance from staff, the facility shall be classified as **Group R-3**.
 - **Child care facility:** Child care facilities provide supervision and personal care on less than a 24-hour basis for more than five children 2 ½ years of age or less shall be classified as **Group I-4**.
 - **Exception:** A child day care facility that provides care for more than five but no more than one hundred children 2 ½ years or less of age, where the rooms in which such 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**.

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 Institutional Group I or when not regulated by the residential code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-47 of the Administrative Code in accordance with Section 101.2 of the building code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-47 of the Administrative Code. Residential occupancies shall include the following:

- **R-1** Residential occupancies containing sleeping units where the occupants are primarily transient in nature including:
 - Boarding houses (transient)
 - Hotels (transient)
 - Motels (transient)
 - **R-1** occupancies typically will include sleeping units but may also include dwelling units when those units are not used primarily as permanent residences.
 - Congregate living facilities (transient) with ten or fewer occupants are permitted to comply with the construction requirements for **Group R-3**.
- **R-2** Residential occupancies containing sleeping units or more than two dwelling units where the occupants are primarily permanent in nature in structures with shared means of egress, including:
 - Apartment houses
 - Boarding houses (nontransient)
 - Convents
 - Dormitories
 - Fraternities and sororities
 - Hotels (nontransient)
 - Live/work units
 - Monasteries
 - Motels (nontransient)
 - Vacation timeshare properties

- Congregate living facilities (transient) with sixteen or fewer occupants are permitted to comply with the construction requirements for **Group R-3**
 - Residential occupancies in buildings or structures of mixed use containing one or more dwelling units where the occupants are primarily permanent in nature in structures with shared means of egress.
- **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:
 - Buildings that do not contain more than two dwelling units.
 - Adult care facilities that provide accommodations for five or fewer persons of any age for less than 24 hours.
 - Child care facilities that provide accommodations for five or fewer persons of any age for less than 24 hours.
 - Congregate living facilities with sixteen or fewer persons.
 - Adult and child care facilities that are within a single-family home are permitted to comply with the residential code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-47 of the Administrative Code.
- **R-4** Residential occupancies shall include buildings arranged for occupancy as residential care/assisted living facilities including more than five but not more than sixteen occupants, excluding staff.
 - **Group R-4** occupancies shall meet the requirements for construction as defined for **Group R-3** except as otherwise provided for in this code or shall comply with the residential code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-47 of the Administrative Code provided the building is protected by an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with paragraph (C)(2)(h)(903.2.8) of rule 1301:7-7-09 of the Administrative Code.

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 classed as a hazardous occupancy.

- **Moderate-hazard storage, Group S-1:** Buildings occupied for storage uses that are not classified as **Group S-2** including, but not limited to, storage of the following:
 - Aerosols, Level 2 and Level 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
 - Grain
 - Horn and combs, other than celluloid
 - Leather
 - Linoleum
 - Lumber
 - Motor vehicle repair garages complying with the maximum allowable quantities of hazardous materials listed in Table 2703.1.1(1) of rule 1301:7-7-27 of the Administrative Code (see section 406.6 of the building code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-47 of the Administrative Code).
 - Photo engravings
 - Resilient flooring
 - Silks
 - Soaps
 - Sugar
 - Tires, bulk storage of
 - Tobacco, cigars, cigarettes and snuff
 - Upholstery and mattresses
 - Wax candles
- **Low-hazard storage, 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. 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
- Oil-filled and other types of distribution transformers
- Parking garages open or enclosed
- Porcelain and pottery
- Stoves
- Talc and soapstones
- Washers and dryers

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 hangar, accessory to a one or two-family residence (see Section 412.3 of the building code as listed in rule 1301:7-7-47 of the Administrative Code)
- Barns
- Carports
- Fences more than 6 feet high
- Grain silos, accessory to a residential occupancy
- Greenhouse
- Livestock shelters
- Private garages
- Retaining walls
- Sheds
- Stables
- Tanks
- Towers