

# CHAPTER 3

## USE AND OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION

### SECTION 301 GENERAL

**301.1 Scope.** The provisions of this chapter shall control the classification of all buildings and structures as to use and occupancy.

### SECTION 302 CLASSIFICATION

**302.1 General.** Structures or portions of structures shall be classified with respect to occupancy in one or more of the groups listed in this section. A room or space that is intended to be occupied at different times for different purposes shall comply with all of the requirements that are applicable to each of the purposes for which the room or space will be occupied. Structures with multiple occupancies or uses shall comply with Section 508. Where a structure is proposed for a purpose that is not specifically provided for in this code, such structure shall be classified in the group that the occupancy most nearly resembles, according to the fire safety and relative hazard involved.

1. Assembly (see Section 303): Groups A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4 and A-5
2. Business (see Section 304): Group B
3. Educational (see Section 305): Group E
4. Factory and Industrial (see Section 306): Groups F-1 and F-2
5. High Hazard (see Section 307): Groups H-1, H-2, H-3, H-4 and H-5
6. Institutional (see Section 308): Groups I-1, I-2, I-3 and I-4
7. Mercantile (see Section 309): Group M
8. Residential (see Section 310): Groups R-1, R-2, R-3 and R-4
9. Storage (see Section 311): Groups S-1 and S-2
10. Utility and Miscellaneous (see Section 312): Group U

### 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 m<sup>2</sup>) 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 are not considered separate occupancies.

**303.2 Assembly 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:

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

**303.3 Assembly Group A-2.** 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.** 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