

OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATIONS

September 2010

CODE REVIEW

Code Quick Review -
Easy Access to Review
Topics

Occupancy Classifications Group A (Part 1)

References:

North Carolina Building Code, 2009 Edition;
page 17, Section 303.1,
pages 31-34, Section 402,
pages 35-36, Section 404,
pages 44-45, Section 409,
pages 45-47, Section 410,
page 47, Section 411, pages
71-78, Sections 503-508

**International Building Code
and Commentary Volume 1**,
2006 Edition, page 3-4

Synopsis of Assemblies, Group A occupancies:

No other occupancy classification defined by the code has an allowed occupant load as dense as 5 square feet per person. Their arrangement, use, occupant density, darkened spaces and other factors affect impending hazards. As a result the potential for multiple fatalities and injuries from fire is comparatively elevated.

Group A occupancies are restricted in area and height as well as design fire area more so than other occupancies with the exception of some Hazardous Material occupancies. Assembly occupancies are separated into 5 specific assembly groups, A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4 and A-5.

Definitions:

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.

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 and Theaters.

A-2: Assembly uses intended for food and/or drink consumption including, but not limited to: Banquet halls, Night clubs, Restaurants, Taverns and 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: Museums, Courtrooms, Places of religious worship, Lecture halls and Waiting areas in transportation terminals.

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A-4: Assembly uses intended for viewing of indoor sporting events and activities with spectator seating including, but not limited to: Arenas, Skating rinks, Tennis courts and swimming pools.

A-5: Assembly uses intended for viewing of outdoor activities including, but not limited to: Stadiums, Bleachers, Grandstands and Amusement park structures

1. Buildings or portions thereof containing Group A occupancies could also fall under Chapter 4 of the 2009 North Carolina Building Code, Special detailed requirements based on use and occupancy. Such as, but not exclusive to:
 - Covered mall buildings, 2009 North Carolina Building Code Section 402
 - Atriums, 2009 North Carolina Building Code Section 404
 - Motion picture projection rooms, 2009 North Carolina Building Code Section 409
 - Stages and platforms, 2009 North Carolina Building Code Section 410
 - Special amusement buildings, 2009 North Carolina Building Code Section 411
2. Height and area requirements are established by Table 503 and may be modified by Sections 506 through 508 of the 2009 North Carolina Building Code provided all requirements of the applicable sections are met.
3. Several other areas of the 2009 North Carolina Building Code deal with special requirements for Group A occupancies. We will cover those sections in more detail through future Quick Reviews.