

load factor for that use as specified in [Table 7.3.1.2](#), [Figure 7.3.1.2\(a\)](#), and [Figure 7.3.1.2\(b\)](#). Where both gross and net area figures are given for the same occupancy, calculations shall be made by applying the gross area figure to the gross area of the portion of the building devoted to the use for which the gross area figure is specified and by applying the net area figure to the net area of the portion of the building devoted to the use for which the net area figure is specified.

A.7.3.1.2 The normal occupant load is not necessarily a suitable criterion, because the greatest hazard can occur when an unusually large crowd is present, which is a condition often difficult for authorities having jurisdiction to control by regulatory measures. The principle of

this *Code* is to provide means of egress for the maximum probable number of occupants, rather than to attempt to limit occupants to a number commensurate with available means of egress. However, limits of occupancy are specified in certain special cases for other reasons.

Suggested occupant load factors for components of large airport terminal buildings are given in [Table A.7.3.1.2](#). However, the authority having jurisdiction might elect to use different occupant load factors, provided that egress requirements are satisfied.

The figure used in determining the occupancy load for mall shopping centers of varying sizes was arrived at empirically by surveying over 270 mall shopping centers, by studying mercantile occupancy

Δ **Table 7.3.1.2 Occupant Load Factor**

Use	(ft ² /person) ^a	(m ² /person) ^a
Assembly Use		
Concentrated use, without fixed seating	7 net	0.65 net
Less concentrated use, without fixed seating	15 net	1.4 net
Bench-type seating	1 person/18 linear in.	1 person/455 linear mm
Fixed seating	Use number of fixed seats	Use number of fixed seats
Waiting spaces	See 12.1.7.2 and 13.1.7.2 .	See 12.1.7.2 and 13.1.7.2 .
Kitchens	100	9.3
Library stack areas	100	9.3
Library reading rooms	50 net	4.6 net
Swimming pools	50 (water surface)	4.6 (water surface)
Swimming pool decks	30	2.8
Exercise rooms with equipment	50	4.6
Exercise rooms without equipment	15	1.4
Stages	15 net	1.4 net
Lighting and access catwalks, galleries, gridirons	100 net	9.3 net
Casinos and similar gaming areas	11	1
Skating rinks	50	4.6
Business Use (other than below)	150	14
Concentrated Business Use ^f	50	4.6
Airport traffic control tower observation levels	40	3.7
Collaboration rooms/spaces ≤ 450 ft ² (41.8 m ²) in area ^f	30	2.8
Collaboration rooms/spaces > 450 ft ² (41.8 m ²) in area ^f	15	1.4
Day-Care Use	35 net	3.3 net
Detention and Correctional Use	120	11.1
Educational Use		
Classrooms	20 net	1.9 net
Shops, laboratories, vocational rooms	50 net	4.6 net
Health Care Use		
Inpatient treatment departments	240	22.3
Sleeping departments	120	11.1
Ambulatory health care	150	14
Industrial Use		
General and high hazard industrial	100	9.3
Special-purpose industrial	NA	NA
Mercantile Use		
Sales area on street floor ^{b,c}	30	2.8
Sales area on two or more street floors ^c	40	3.7
Sales area on floor below street floor ^c	30	2.8
Sales area on floors above street floor ^c	60	5.6
Floors or portions of floors used only for offices	See business use.	See business use.
Floors or portions of floors used only for storage, receiving, and shipping, and not open to general public	300	27.9
Mall structures ^d	Per factors applicable to use of space ^e	

Δ **Table 7.3.1.2 Continued**

Use	(ft ² /person) ^a	(m ² /person) ^a
Residential Use		
Hotels and dormitories	200	18.6
Apartment buildings	200	18.6
Board and care, large	200	18.6
Storage Use		
In storage occupancies	NA	NA
In mercantile occupancies	300	27.9
In other than storage and mercantile occupancies	500	46.5

NA: Not applicable. The occupant load is the maximum probable number of occupants present at any time.

^aAll factors are expressed in gross area unless marked “net.”

^bFor the purpose of determining occupant load in mercantile occupancies where, due to differences in the finished ground level of streets on different sides, two or more floors directly accessible from streets (not including alleys or similar back streets) exist, each such floor is permitted to be considered a street floor. The occupant load factor is one person for each 40 ft² (3.7 m²) of gross floor area of sales space.

^cFor the purpose of determining occupant load in mercantile occupancies with no street floor, as defined in 3.3.271, but with access directly from the street by stairs or escalators, the floor at the point of entrance to the mercantile occupancy is considered the street floor.

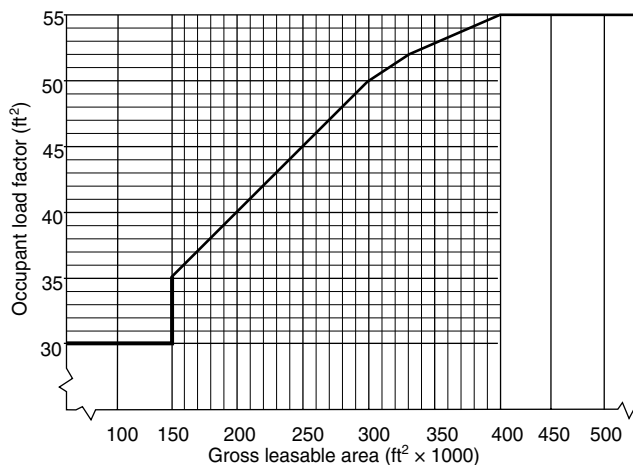
^dFor any food court or other assembly use areas located in the mall concourse that are not included as a portion of the gross leasable area of the mall structure, the occupant load is calculated based on the occupant load factor for that use as specified in Table 7.3.1.2. The remaining mall concourse area is not required to be assigned an occupant load.

^eThe portions of the mall concourse not used as gross leasable area are not required to be assessed an occupant load based on Table 7.3.1.2. However, means of egress from a mall concourse are required to be provided for an occupant load determined by dividing the gross leasable area of the mall building (not including anchor buildings) by the appropriate lowest whole number occupant load factor from Figure 7.3.1.2(a) or Figure 7.3.1.2(b).

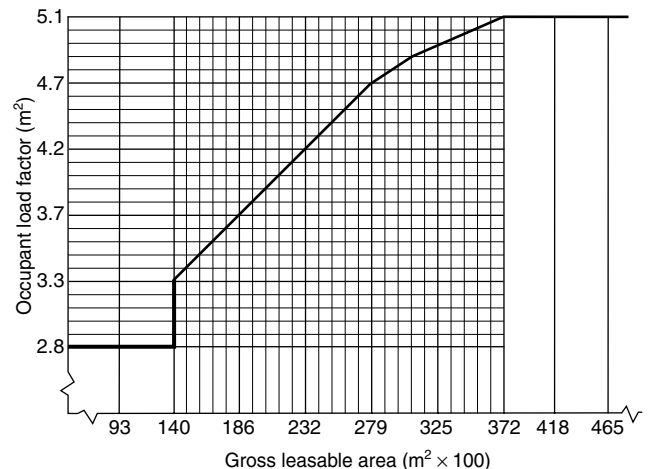
Each individual tenant space is required to have means of egress to the outside or to the mall concourse based on occupant loads calculated by using the appropriate occupant load factor from Table 7.3.1.2.

Each individual anchor store is required to have means of egress independent of the mall concourse.

^fSee A.7.3.1.2.



Δ **Figure 7.3.1.2(a)** Mall Structure Occupant Load Factors (U.S. Customary Units).



Δ **Figure 7.3.1.2(b)** Mall Structure Occupant Load Factors (SI Units).