

2021 Virginia Construction Code

CHAPTER 3 USE AND OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION

SECTION 302 OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION AND USE DESIGNATION

302.1 Occupancy classification.

Occupancy classification is the formal designation of the primary purpose of the building, structure or portion thereof. Structures shall be classified into one or more of the occupancy groups specified in this section based on the nature of the hazards and risks to building occupants generally associated with the intended purpose of the building or structure. An area, room or space that is intended to be occupied at different times for different purposes shall comply with all applicable requirements associated with such potential multipurpose. Structures containing multiple occupancy groups shall comply with Section 508. Where a structure is proposed for a purpose that is not specified in this section, such structure shall be classified in the occupancy it most nearly resembles based on the fire safety and relative hazard. Occupied roofs shall be classified in the group that the occupancy most nearly resembles, according to the fire safety and relative hazard, and shall comply with [Section 503.1.4](#).

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 [Sections 308 and 313 for State Regulated Care Facilities \(SRCFs\)](#)).
7. Mercantile (see [Section 309](#)): Group M.
8. Residential (see [Sections 310 and 313 for SRCFs](#)): Groups R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4 and R-5.
9. Storage (see [Section 311](#)): Groups S-1 and S-2.
10. Utility and Miscellaneous (see [Section 312](#)): Group U.

302.2 Use designation.

Occupancy groups contain subordinate uses having similar hazards and risks to building occupants. Uses include, but are not limited to, those functional designations specified within the occupancy group descriptions in [Section 302.1](#). Certain uses require specific limitations and controls in accordance with the provisions of [Chapter 4](#) and elsewhere in this code.