

12.1.7 Occupant Load.

12.1.7.1 General. The occupant load, in number of persons for whom means of egress and other provisions are required, shall be determined on the basis of the occupant load factors of Table 7.3.1.2 [Commentary Table 518.1] that are characteristic of the use of the space or shall be determined as the maximum probable population of the space under consideration, whichever is greater.

7.3.1.1.2 For other than existing means of egress, where more than one means of egress is required, the means of egress shall be of such width and capacity that the loss of any one means of egress leaves available not less than 50 percent of the required capacity.

7.3.1.2 Occupant Load Factor. The occupant load in any building or portion thereof shall be not less than the number of persons determined by dividing the floor area assigned to that use by the occupant load factor for that use as specified in Table 7.3.1.2 [Commentary Table 518.1]. 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.

518.2 General Classification.

(A) Examples. Assembly occupancies shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Armories
- (2) Assembly halls
- (3) Auditoriums
- (4) Bowling lanes
- (5) Casinos and gaming facilities
- (6) Club rooms
- (7) Conference rooms
- (8) Courtrooms
- (9) Dance halls
- (10) Dining and drinking facilities
- (11) Exhibition halls
- (12) Gymnasiums
- (13) Mortuary chapels
- (14) Multipurpose rooms
- (15) Museums
- (16) Places of awaiting transportation
- (17) Places of religious worship
- (18) Pool rooms
- (19) Restaurants
- (20) Skating rinks

(B) Multiple Occupancies. Where an assembly occupancy forms a portion of a building containing other occupancies, Article 518 applies only to that portion of the building considered an assembly occupancy. Occupancy of any room or space

for assembly purposes by less than 100 persons in a building of other occupancy, and incidental to such other occupancy, shall be classified as part of the other occupancy.

(C) Theatrical Areas. Where any such building or structure, or portion of a building or structure, contains a projection booth or stage platform or area for the presentation of theatrical or musical productions, either fixed or portable, the wiring for that area, including associated audience seating areas, and all equipment that is used in the referenced area, and portable equipment and wiring for use in the production that will not be connected to permanently installed wiring, shall comply with Article 520.

Informational Note: See NFPA 101-2021, *Life Safety Code*, or the local building code for methods of determining population capacity.

The requirements in Article 520 apply to theatrical areas within assembly occupancies. See the commentary following 520.1.

518.3 Temporary Wiring. In exhibition halls used for display booths, as in trade shows, the temporary wiring shall be permitted to be installed in accordance with Article 590. Flexible cables and cords approved for hard or extra-hard usage shall be permitted to be laid on floors where protected from contact by the general public. The ground-fault circuit-interrupter requirements of 590.6 shall not apply. All other ground-fault circuit-interrupter requirements of this *Code* shall apply.

Where ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel is cord-and-plug-connected to the branch circuit or to the feeder, the ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection shall be listed as portable ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection or provide a level of protection equivalent to a portable ground-fault circuit interrupter, whether assembled in the field or at the factory.

Exception: Where conditions of supervision and maintenance ensure that only qualified persons will service the installation, flexible cords or cables identified in Table 400.4 for hard usage or extra-hard usage shall be permitted in cable trays used only for temporary wiring. All cords or cables shall be installed in a single layer. A permanent sign shall be attached to the cable tray at intervals not to exceed 7.5 m (25 ft) and read as follows:

CABLE TRAY FOR TEMPORARY WIRING ONLY

GFCI requirements for temporary wiring installations are covered in 590.6, but those requirements do not apply to temporary installations under Article 518. Temporary installations in exhibition halls must meet all other applicable GFCI protection requirements such as those specified in 210.8. Although trade show booths are connected to temporary wiring, GFCI protection is required for water features at garden shows, receptacles near sinks for food vendors, and other, similar installations.

Permanent GFCI protection differs from portable GFCI protection. Product standards for GFCI equipment require portable