**Chapter 6 Classification of Occupancy and Hazard of Contents**

6.1 Classification of Occupancy

6.1.1 General

6.1.1.1 Occupancy Classification

Diagram

The occupancy of a building or structure, or portion of a building or structure, shall be classified in accordance with 6.1.2 through 6.1.13. Occupancy classification shall be subject to the ruling of the authority having jurisdiction where there is a question of proper classification in any individual case.

Upcodes Diagrams

6.1.1.2 Special Structures

Occupancies in special structures shall conform to the requirements of the specific occupancy chapter, Chapters 12 through 43, except as modified by Chapter 11.

6.1.2 Assembly

For requirements, see Chapters 12 and 13.

Upcodes Diagrams

6.1.2.1\* Definition — Assembly Occupancy

An occupancy (1) used for a gathering of 50 or more persons for deliberation, worship, entertainment, eating, drinking, amusement, awaiting transportation, or similar uses; or (2) used as a special amusement building, regardless of occupant load.

6.1.2.2 Other. (Reserved)

6.1.3 Educational

Diagram

For requirements, see Chapters 14 and 15.

UpCodes Diagrams

P

Facilities Not Meeting Educational. Occ. Def. (NFPA)

Occ: IBC vs. NFPA - E/Educational

6.1.3.1\* Definition — Educational Occupancy

An occupancy used for educational purposes through the twelfth grade by six or more persons for 4 or more hours per day or more than 12 hours per week.

6.1.3.2 Other Occupancies

Other occupancies associated with educational institutions shall be in accordance with the appropriate parts of this Code.

6.1.3.3 Incidental Instruction

In cases where instruction is incidental to some other occupancy, the section of this Code governing such other occupancy shall apply.

6.1.4 Day Care

For requirements, see Chapters 16 and 17.

Upcodes Diagrams

6.1.4.1\* Definition — Day-Care Occupancy

An occupancy in which four or more clients receive care, maintenance, and supervision, by other than their relatives or legal guardians, for less than 24 hours per day.

6.1.4.2 Other. (Reserved)

6.1.5 Health Care

Diagram

For requirements, see Chapters 18 and 19.

UpCodes Diagrams

P

Occ: IBC vs. NFPA - I/Institutional

6.1.5.1\* Definition — Health Care Occupancy

An occupancy used to provide medical or other treatment or care simultaneously to four or more patients on an inpatient basis, where such patients are mostly incapable of self-preservation due to age, physical or mental disability, or because of security measures not under the occupants' control.

6.1.5.2 Other. (Reserved)

6.1.6 Ambulatory Health Care

For requirements, see Chapters 20 and 21.

Upcodes Diagrams

6.1.6.1\* Definition — Ambulatory Health Care Occupancy

An occupancy used to provide services or treatment simultaneously to four or more patients that provides, on an outpatient basis, one or more of the following:

Treatment for patients that renders the patients incapable of taking action for self-preservation under emergency conditions without the assistance of others

Anesthesia that renders the patients incapable of taking action for self-preservation under emergency conditions without the assistance of others

Emergency or urgent care for patients who, due to the nature of their injury or illness, are incapable of taking action for self-preservation under emergency conditions without the assistance of others

6.1.6.2 Other. (Reserved)

6.1.7 Detention and Correctional

For requirements, see Chapters 22 and 23.

Upcodes Diagrams

6.1.7.1\* Definition — Detention and Correctional Occupancy

An occupancy, other than one whose primary intended use is health care, ambulatory health care, or residential board and care, used to lawfully incarcerate or lawfully detain one or more persons under varied degrees of restraint or security where such occupants are mostly incapable of self-preservation because of security measures not under the occupants' control.

6.1.7.2\* Nonresidential Uses

Within detention and correctional facilities, uses other than residential housing shall be in accordance with the appropriate chapter of the Code. (See 22.1.3.3 and 23.1.3.3.)

6.1.8 Residential

For requirements, see Chapters 24 through 31.

Upcodes Diagrams

6.1.8.1 Definition — Residential Occupancy

An occupancy that provides sleeping accommodations for purposes other than health care or detention and correctional.

6.1.8.1.1\* Definition — One- And Two-Family Dwelling Unit

A building that contains not more than two dwelling units, each dwelling unit occupied by members of a single family with not more than three outsiders, if any, accommodated in rented rooms.

6.1.8.1.2 Definition — Lodging or Rooming House

A building or portion thereof that does not qualify as a one- or two-family dwelling, that provides sleeping accommodations for a total of 16 or fewer people on a transient or permanent basis, without personal care services, with or without meals, but without separate cooking facilities for individual occupants.

6.1.8.1.3\* Definition — Hotel

A building or groups of buildings under the same management in which there are sleeping accommodations for more than 16 persons and primarily used by transients for lodging with or without meals.

6.1.8.1.4\* Definition — Dormitory

A building or a space in a building in which group sleeping accommodations are provided for more than 16 persons who are not members of the same family in one room, or a series of closely associated rooms, under joint occupancy and single management, with or without meals, but without individual cooking facilities.

Upcodes Diagrams

6.1.8.1.5 Definition — Apartment Building

A building or portion thereof containing three or more dwelling units with independent cooking and bathroom facilities.

6.1.8.2 Other. (Reserved)

6.1.9 Residential Board and Care

Diagram

For requirements, see Chapters 32 and 33.

UpCodes Diagrams

P

Occ: IBC vs. NFPA - I/Institutional

Occ: IBC vs. NFPA - R/Residential

6.1.9.1\* Definition — Residential Board and Care Occupancy

An occupancy used for lodging and boarding of four or more residents, not related by blood or marriage to the owners or operators, for the purpose of providing personal care services.

6.1.9.2 Other. (Reserved)

6.1.10 Mercantile

For requirements, see Chapters 36 and 37.

Upcodes Diagrams

6.1.10.1\* Definition — Mercantile Occupancy

An occupancy used for the display and sale of merchandise.

6.1.10.2 Other. (Reserved)

6.1.11 Business

For requirements, see Chapters 38 and 39.

Upcodes Diagrams

6.1.11.1\* Definition — Business Occupancy

An occupancy used for the transaction of business other than mercantile.

6.1.11.2 Other. (Reserved)

6.1.12 Industrial

Diagram

For requirements, see Chapter 40.

UpCodes Diagrams

P

Occ: IBC vs. NFPA - F/Industrial

Occ: IBC vs. NFPA - H

6.1.12.1\* Definition — Industrial Occupancy

An occupancy in which products are manufactured or in which processing, assembling, mixing, packaging, finishing, decorating, or repair operations are conducted.

6.1.12.2 Other. (Reserved)

6.1.13 Storage

For requirements, see Chapter 42.

Upcodes Diagrams

6.1.13.1\* Definition — Storage Occupancy

An occupancy used primarily for the storage or sheltering of goods, merchandise, products, or vehicles.

6.1.13.2 Other. (Reserved)

6.1.14 Multiple Occupancies

Diagram

UpCodes Diagrams

P

Example: Fire Station Occ. Groups and Corridor Ratings (NFPA)

6.1.14.1 General

6.1.14.1.1\*

Multiple occupancies shall comply with the requirements of 6.1.14.1 and one of the following:

Mixed occupancies — 6.1.14.3

Separated occupancies — 6.1.14.4

6.1.14.1.2

Where exit access from an occupancy traverses another occupancy, the multiple occupancy shall be treated as a mixed occupancy.

6.1.14.1.3\*

Where incidental to another occupancy, areas used as follows shall be permitted to be considered part of the predominant occupancy and shall be subject to the provisions of the Code that apply to the predominant occupancy:

Mercantile, business, industrial, or storage use

\*Nonresidential use with an occupant load fewer than that established by Section 6.1 for the occupancy threshold

Upcodes Diagrams

6.1.14.2 Definitions

6.1.14.2.1 Multiple Occupancy

A building or structure in which two or more classes of occupancy exist.

6.1.14.2.2 Mixed Occupancy

A multiple occupancy where the occupancies are intermingled.

6.1.14.2.3 Separated Occupancy

A multiple occupancy where the occupancies are separated by fire barriers.

6.1.14.3 Mixed Occupancies

Upcodes Diagrams

6.1.14.3.1

Each portion of the building shall be classified as to its use in accordance with Section 6.1.

6.1.14.3.2\*

The building shall comply with the most restrictive requirements of the occupancies involved, unless separate safeguards are approved.

6.1.14.4 Separated Occupancies

(See Also 6.1.14.1.2.)

Upcodes Diagrams

6.1.14.4.1

Where separated occupancies are provided, each part of the building comprising a distinct occupancy, as described in this chapter, shall be completely separated from other occupancies by fire barriers, as specified in Table 6.1.14.4.1(a), Table 6.1.14.4.1(b), and 6.1.14.4.2 through 6.1.14.4.4, unless separation is provided by approved existing separations or as otherwise permitted by 6.1.14.4.6.

Table 6.1.14.4.1(a) Required Separation of Occupancies (hours),\* Part 1

Occupancy Assembly ≤300 Assembly >300 to ≤1000 Assembly >1000 Educational Day-Care >12 Clients Day-Care Homes Health Care Ambulatory Health Care Detention & Correctional One- & Two-Family Dwellings Lodging or Rooming Houses Hotels & Dormitories

Assembly ≤ 300 — 0 0 2 2 1 2† 2 2† 2 2 2

Assembly >300 to ≤1000 0 — 0 2 2 2 2† 2 2† 2 2 2

Assembly >1000 0 0 — 2 2 2 2† 2 2† 2 2 2

Educational 2 2 2 — 2 2 2† 2 2† 2 2 2

Day-Care >12 Clients 2 2 2 2 — 1 2† 2 2† 2 2 2

Day-Care Homes 1 2 2 2 1 — 2† 2 2† 2 2 2

Health Care 2† 2† 2† 2† 2† 2† — 2† 2† 2† 2† 2†

Ambulatory Health Care 2 2 2 2 2 2 2† — 2† 2 2 2

Detention & Correctional 2† 2† 2† 2† 2† 2† 2† 2† — 2† 2† 2†

One- & Two-Family Dwellings 2 2 2 2 2 2 2† 2 2† — 1 1

Lodging or Rooming Houses 2 2 2 2 2 2 2† 2 2† 1 — 1

Hotels & Dormitories 2 2 2 2 2 2 2† 2 2† 1 1 —

Apartment Buildings 2 2 2 2 2 2 2† 2 2† 1 1 1

Board & Care, Small 2 2 2 2 2 2 2† 2 2† 1 2 2

Board & Care, Large 2 2 2 2 2 2 2† 2 2† 2 2 2

Mercantile 2 2 2 2 2 2 2† 2 2† 2 2 2

Mercantile, Mall 2 2 2 2 2 2 2† 2 2† 2 2 2

Mercantile, Bulk Retail 3 3 3 3 3 3 2† 2† 2† 3 3 3

Business 1 2 2 2 2 2 2† 1 2† 2 2 2

Industrial, General Purpose 2 2 3 3 3 3 2† 2 2† 2 2 2

Industrial, Special-Purpose 2 2 2 3 3 3 2† 2 2† 2 2 2

Industrial, High Hazard 3 3 3 3 3 3 2† 2† NP 3 3 3

Storage, Low & Ordinary Hazard 2 2 3 3 3 2 2† 2 2† 2 2 2

Storage, High Hazard 3 3 3 3 3 3 2† 2† NP 3 3 3

NP: Not permitted.

\*Minimum Fire Resistance Rating. The fire resistance rating is permitted to be reduced by 1 hour, but in no case to less than 1 hour, where the building is protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1) and supervised in accordance with 9.7.2.

†The 1-hour reduction due to the presence of sprinklers in accordance with the asterisk footnote is not permitted.

Table 6.1.14.4.1(b) Required Separation of Occupancies (hours)\*, Part 2

Occupancy Apartment Buildings Board & Care, Small Board & Care, Large Mercantile Mercantile, Mall Mercantile, Bulk Retail Business Industrial, General Purpose Industrial, Special Purpose Industrial, High Hazard Storage, Low & Ordinary Hazard Storage, High Hazard

Assembly ≤ 300 2 2 2 2 2 3 1 2 2 3 2 3

Assembly >300 to ≤1000 2 2 2 2 2 3 2 2 2 3 2 3

Assembly >1000 2 2 2 2 2 3 2 3 2 3 3 3

Educational 2 2 2 2 2 3 2 3 3 3 3 3

Day-Care >12 Clients 2 2 2 2 2 3 2 3 3 3 3 3

Day-Care Homes 2 2 2 2 2 3 2 3 3 3 2 3

Health Care 2† 2† 2† 2† 2† 2† 2† 2† 2† 2† 2† 2†

Ambulatory Health Care 2 2 2 2 2 2† 1 2 2 2† 2 2†

Detention & Correctional 2† 2† 2† 2† 2† 2† 2† 2† 2† NP 2† NP

One- & Two-Family Dwellings 1 1 2 2 2 3 2 2 2 3 2 3

Lodging or Rooming Houses 1 2 2 2 2 3 2 2 2 3 2 3

Hotels & Dormitories 1 2 2 2 2 3 2 2 2 3 2 3

Apartment Buildings — 2 2 2 2 3 2 2 2 3 2 3

Board & Care, Small 2 — 1 2 2 3 2 3 3 3 3 3

Board & Care, Large 2 1 — 2 2 3 2 3 3 3 3 3

Mercantile 2 2 2 — 0 3 2 2 2 3 2 3

Mercantile, Mall 2 2 2 0 — 3 2 3 3 3 2 3

Mercantile, Bulk Retail 3 3 3 3 3 — 2 2 2 3 2 2

Business 2 2 2 2 2 2 — 2 2 2 2 2

Industrial, General Purpose 2 3 3 2 3 2 2 — 1 1 1 1

Industrial, Special-Purpose 2 3 3 2 3 2 2 1 — 1 1 1

Industrial, High Hazard 3 3 3 3 3 3 2 1 1 — 1 1

Storage, Low & Ordinary Hazard 2 3 3 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 — 1

Storage, High Hazard 3 3 3 3 3 2 2 1 1 1 1 —

NP: Not permitted.

\*Minimum Fire Resistance Rating. The fire resistance rating is permitted to be reduced by 1 hour, but in no case to less than 1 hour, where the building is protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1) and supervised in accordance with 9.7.2.

†The 1-hour reduction due to the presence of sprinklers in accordance with the asterisk footnote is not permitted.

6.1.14.4.2

Occupancy separation fire barriers shall be classified as 3-hour fire-resistance-rated, 2-hour fire-resistance-rated, or 1-hour fire-resistance-rated and shall meet the requirements of Chapter 8.

6.1.14.4.3

The fire barrier minimum fire resistance rating specified in Table 6.1.14.4.1(a) and Table 6.1.14.4.1(b) shall be permitted to be reduced by 1 hour, but in no case shall it be reduced to less than 1 hour, where the building is protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 9.7.1.1(1) and supervised in accordance with 9.7.2, unless prohibited by the double-dagger footnote entries in the tables.

6.1.14.4.4

Occupancy separation fire barriers shall be vertical, horizontal, or both or, when necessary, of such other form as required to provide complete separation between occupancy divisions in the building.

6.1.14.4.5\*

Each separated portion of the building shall comply with the requirements for the occupancy therein.

6.1.14.4.6

Diagram

Where permitted in Chapters 11 through 43, atrium walls shall be permitted to serve as part of the separation required by 6.1.14.4.1 for creating separated occupancies on a story-by-story basis, provided all of the following are met:

The atrium is separated from adjacent areas by walls that are smoke partitions in accordance with Section 8.4.

Doors in the smoke partitions required by 6.1.14.4.6(1) are equipped with positive latching hardware.

The atrium meets the provisions of 8.6.7 that are applicable to new atriums.

Upcodes Diagrams

6.2 Hazard of Contents

6.2.1 General

6.2.1.1

For the purpose of this Code, the hazard of contents shall be the relative danger of the start and spread of fire, the danger of smoke or gases generated, and the danger of explosion or other occurrence potentially endangering the lives and safety of the occupants of the building or structure.

6.2.1.2

Hazard of contents shall be classified by the registered design professional (RDP) or owner and submitted to the authority having jurisdiction for review and approval on the basis of the character of the contents and the processes or operations conducted in the building or structure.

For the purpose of this Code, where different degrees of hazard of contents exist in different parts of a building or structure, the most hazardous shall govern the classification, unless hazardous areas are separated or protected as specified in Section 8.7 and the applicable sections of Chapters 11 through 43.

6.2.2 Classification of Hazard of Contents

6.2.2.1\* General

The hazard of contents of any building or structure shall be classified as low, ordinary, or high in accordance with 6.2.2.2, 6.2.2.3, and 6.2.2.4.

6.2.2.2\* Low Hazard Contents

Low hazard contents shall be classified as those of such low combustibility that no self-propagating fire therein can occur.

6.2.2.3\* Ordinary Hazard Contents

Ordinary hazard contents shall be classified as those that are likely to burn with moderate rapidity or to give off a considerable volume of smoke.

6.2.2.4\* High Hazard Contents

High hazard contents shall be classified as those that are likely to burn with extreme rapidity or from which explosions are likely. (For means of egress requirements, see Section 7.11.)















