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

6.1 Classification of Occupancy

6.1.1 General

6.1.1.1 Occupancy Classification

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.

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.

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

For requirements, see Chapters 14 and 15.

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.

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

For requirements, see Chapters 18 and 19.

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.

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.

6.1.7.1\* Definition — Detention and Correctional Occupancy

An occupancy used to house 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.

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 with independent cooking and bathroom facilities.

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.

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

For requirements, see Chapters 32 and 33.

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.

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.

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

For requirements, see Chapter 40.

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.

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

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

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 resistance-rated assemblies.

6.1.14.3 Mixed Occupancies

Diagram

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

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-resistive assemblies, as specified in 6.1.14.4.2, 6.1.14.4.3, Table 6.1.14.4.1(a), and Table 6.1.14.4.1(b), unless separation is provided by approved existing separations.

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 single-dagger 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 single-dagger footnote is not permitted.

6.1.14.4.2

Occupancy separations 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 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 separations 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.

6.2 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.

6.2.1.3\*

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.)