

Appendix A: IBC Building Group Summary Descriptions

ASSEMBLY GROUP A

Assembly Group A. Assembly Group A occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for the gathering of persons for purposes such as civic, social or religious functions; recreation, food or drink consumption or awaiting transportation.

A-1 Assembly uses, usually with fixed seating, intended for the production and viewing of the performing arts or motion pictures including, but not limited to:

Motion picture theaters	Television and radio studios admitting an audience
Symphony and concert halls	Theaters

A-2 Assembly uses intended for food and/or drink consumption including, but not limited to:

Banquet halls	Restaurants
Night clubs	Taverns and bars

A-3 Assembly uses intended for worship, recreation or amusement and other assembly uses not classified elsewhere in Group A including, but not limited to:

Amusement arcades	Indoor swimming pools (without spectator seating)
Art galleries	Indoor tennis courts (without spectator seating)
Bowling alleys	Lecture halls
Community halls	Libraries
Courtrooms	Museums
Dance halls (not including food or drink consumption)	Places of religious worship
Exhibition halls	Pool and billiard parlors
Funeral parlors	Waiting areas in transportation terminals
Gymnasiums (without spectator seating)	

A-4 Assembly uses intended for viewing of indoor sporting events and activities with spectator seating including, but not limited to:

Arenas	Swimming pools
Skating rinks	Tennis courts

A-5 Assembly uses intended for participation in or viewing outdoor activities including, but not limited to:

Amusement park structures	Grandstands
<i>Bleachers</i>	Stadiums

BUSINESS GROUP B

Business Group B. Business Group B occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for office, professional or service-type transactions, including storage of records and accounts. Business occupancies shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Airport traffic control towers	Electronic data processing
Ambulatory health care facilities	Laboratories: testing and research
Animal hospitals, kennels and pounds	Motor vehicle showrooms
Banks	Post offices
Barber and beauty shops	Print shops
Car wash	Professional services (architects, attorneys, dentists, physicians, engineers, etc.)
Civic administration	Radio and television stations
Clinic—outpatient	Telephone exchanges
Dry cleaning and laundries: pick-up and delivery stations and self-service	Training and skill development not within a school or academic program
Educational occupancies for students above the 12th grade	

EDUCATIONAL GROUP E

Educational Group E. Educational Group E occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, by six or more persons at any one time for educational purposes through the 12th grade. Religious educational rooms and religious auditoriums, which are accessory to *places of religious worship* and have *occupant loads* of less than 100, shall be classified as A-3 occupancies.

FACTORY GROUP F

Factory Industrial Group F. Factory Industrial Group F occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for assembling, disassembling, fabricating, finishing, manufacturing, packaging, repair or processing operations that are not classified as a Group H hazardous or Group S storage occupancy.

Factory Industrial F-1 Moderate-hazard Occupancy.

Factory industrial uses which are not classified as Factory Industrial F-2 Low Hazard shall be classified as F-1 Moderate Hazard and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Aircraft (manufacturing, not to include repair)	Jute products
Appliances	Laundries
Athletic equipment	Leather products
Automobiles and other motor vehicles	Machinery
Bakeries	Metals
Beverages: over 16-percent alcohol content	Millwork (sash and door)
Bicycles	Motion pictures and television filming (without spectators)
Boats	Musical instruments
Brooms or brushes	Optical goods
Business machines	Paper mills or products
Cameras and photo equipment	Photographic film
Canvas or similar fabric	Plastic products
Carpets and rugs (includes cleaning)	Printing or publishing
Clothing	Recreational vehicles
Construction and agricultural machinery	Refuse incineration
Disinfectants	Shoes
Dry cleaning and dyeing	Soaps and detergents
Electric generation plants	Textiles
Electronics	Tobacco
Engines (including rebuilding)	Trailers
Food processing	Upholstering
Furniture	Wood; distillation
Hemp products	Woodworking (cabinet)

Factory Industrial F-2 Low-hazard Occupancy. Factory industrial uses that involve the fabrication or manufacturing of noncombustible materials which during finishing, packing or processing do not involve a significant fire hazard shall be classified as F-2 occupancies and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Beverages: up to and including 16-percent alcohol content	Glass products
Brick and masonry	Gypsum
Ceramic products	Ice
Foundries	Metal products (fabrication and assembly)

HIGH-HAZARD GROUP H

High-hazard Group H. High-hazard Group H occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, that involves the manufacturing, processing, generation or storage of materials that constitute a physical or health hazard. Hazardous occupancies are classified in Groups H-1, H-2, H-3, H-4 and H-5 the *International Fire Code*. Hazardous materials stored, or used on top of roofs or canopies shall be classified as outdoor storage or use and shall comply with the *International Fire Code*.

INSTITUTIONAL GROUP I

Institutional Group I. Institutional Group I occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, in which people are cared for or live in a supervised environment, having physical limitations because of health or age are harbored for medical treatment or other care or treatment, or in which people are detained for penal or correctional purposes or in which the liberty of the occupants is restricted. Institutional occupancies shall be classified as Group I-1, I-2, I-3 or I-4.

Group I-1. This occupancy shall include buildings, structures or parts thereof housing more than 16 persons, on a 24-hour basis, who because of age, mental disability or other reasons, live in a supervised residential environment that provides *personal care services*. The occupants are capable of responding to an emergency situation without physical assistance from staff. This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Alcohol and drug centers	Group homes
Assisted living facilities	Halfway houses
Congregate care facilities	Residential board and care facilities
Convalescent facilities	Social rehabilitation facilities

A facility such as the above with five or fewer persons shall be classified as a Group R-3 or shall comply with the *International Residential Code*. A facility such as above, housing at least six and not more than 16 persons, shall be classified as Group R-4.

Group I-2. This occupancy shall include buildings and structures used for medical, surgical, psychiatric, nursing or custodial care for persons who are not capable of self-preservation. This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Child care facilities	Mental hospitals
Detoxification facilities	Nursing homes
Hospitals	

Group I-3. This occupancy shall include buildings and structures that are inhabited by more than five persons who are under restraint or security. An I-3 facility is occupied by persons who are generally incapable of self-preservation due to security measures not under the occupants' control. This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Correctional centers	Prerelease centers
Detention centers	Prisons
Jails	Reformatories

MERCANTILE GROUP M

309.1 Mercantile Group M. Mercantile Group M occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure or a portion thereof, for the display and sale of merchandise and involves stocks of goods, wares or merchandise incidental to such purposes and accessible to the public.

Mercantile occupancies shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Department stores

Drug stores

Markets

Motor fuel-dispensing facilities

Retail or wholesale stores

Sales rooms

RESIDENTIAL GROUP R

310.1 Residential Group R. Residential Group R includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for sleeping purposes when not classified as an Institutional Group I or when not regulated by the *International Residential Code* in accordance with Section 101.2. Residential occupancies shall include the following:

R-1 Residential occupancies containing *sleeping units* where the occupants are primarily transient in nature, including:

Boarding houses (transient) Hotels (transient) Motels (transient) *Congregate living facilities* (transient) with 10 or fewer occupants are permitted to comply with the construction requirements for Group R-3.

R-2 Residential occupancies containing *sleeping units* or more than two *dwelling units* where the occupants are primarily permanent in nature, including:

Apartment houses <i>Boarding houses</i> (nontransient)	Monasteries
Convents	Motels (nontransient)
Dormitories	Vacation timeshare properties
Fraternities and sororities	<i>Congregate living facilities</i> with 16 or fewer occupants are permitted to comply with the construction requirements for Group R-3.
Hotels (nontransient)	
Live/work units	

R-3 Residential occupancies where the occupants are primarily permanent in nature and not classified as Group R-1, R-2, R-4 or I, including: Buildings that do not contain more than two *dwelling units*. Adult care facilities that provide accommodations for five or fewer persons of any age for less than 24 hours. Child care facilities that provide accommodations for five or fewer persons of any age for less than 24 hours. *Congregate living facilities* with 16 or fewer persons. Adult care and child care facilities that are within a single-family home are permitted to comply with the *International Residential Code*.

R-4 Residential occupancies shall include buildings arranged for occupancy as residential care/assisted living facilities including more than five but not more than 16 occupants, excluding staff. Group R-4 occupancies shall meet the requirements for construction as defined for Group R-3, except as otherwise provided for in this code or shall comply with the *International Residential Code* provided the building is protected by an *automatic sprinkler system*.

STORAGE GROUP S

Storage Group S. Storage Group S occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for storage that is not classified as a hazardous occupancy.

Moderate-hazard storage, Group S-1. Buildings occupied for storage uses that are not classified as Group S-2, including, but not limited to, storage of the following:

Aerosols, Levels 2 and 3 Aircraft hangar (storage and repair)	Glues, mucilage, pastes and size
Bags: cloth, burlap and paper	Grains
Bamboos and rattan	Horns and combs, other than celluloid
Baskets	Leather
Belting: canvas and leather	Linoleum
Books and paper in rolls or packs	Lumber
Boots and shoes	Motor vehicle repair garages
Buttons, including cloth covered, pearl or bone	Photo engravings
Cardboard and cardboard boxes	Resilient flooring
Clothing, woolen wearing apparel	Silks
Cordage	Soaps
Dry boat storage (indoor)	Sugar
Furniture	Tires, bulk storage of
Furs	Tobacco, cigars, cigarettes and snuff
	Upholstery and mattresses
	Wax candles

Low-hazard storage, Group S-2. Includes, among others, buildings used for the storage of noncombustible materials such as products on wood pallets or in paper cartons with or without single thickness divisions; or in paper wrappings. Such products are permitted to have a negligible amount of plastic *trim*, such as knobs, handles or film wrapping. Group S-2 storage uses shall include, but not be limited to, storage of the following:

Asbestos	Glass bottles, empty or filled with noncombustible liquids
Beverages up to and including 16-percent alcohol in metal, glass or ceramic containers	Gypsum board
Cement in bags	Inert pigments
Chalk and crayons	Ivory
Dairy products in nonwaxed coated paper containers	Meats
Dry cell batteries	Metal cabinets
Electrical coils	Metal desks with plastic tops and <i>trim</i>
Electrical motors	Metal parts
Empty cans	Metals
Food products	Mirrors
Foods in noncombustible containers	Oil-filled and other types of distribution transformers
Fresh fruits and vegetables in nonplastic trays or containers	Parking garages, open or enclosed
Frozen foods	Porcelain and pottery
Glass	Stoves
	Talc and soapstones
	Washers and dryers

UTILITY AND MISCELLANEOUS GROUP U

General. Buildings and structures of an accessory character and miscellaneous structures not classified in any specific occupancy shall be constructed, equipped and maintained to conform to the requirements of this code commensurate with the fire and life hazard incidental to their occupancy. Group U shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Agricultural buildings	Greenhouses
Aircraft hangars, accessory to a one- or two-family residence	Livestock shelters
Barns	Private garages
Carports	Retaining walls
Fences more than 6 feet (1829 mm) high	Sheds
Grain silos, accessory to a residential occupancy	Stables
	Tanks
	Towers