

Major Occupancy

BC Building Code – see Div A 1.4.1.2, and Div B A-3.1.2.1.(1)

Major occupancy means the principal occupancy for which a building or part thereof is used or intended to be used, and shall be deemed to include the subsidiary occupancies that are an integral part of the principal occupancy. The major occupancy classifications used in this Code are as follows:

Group A, Division 1 - Assembly occupancies intended for the production and viewing of the performing arts

- Motion picture theatres
- Opera houses
- Television studios admitting a viewing audience
- Theatres, including experimental theatres

Group A, Division 2 - Assembly occupancies not elsewhere classified in Group A

- Art galleries
- Auditoria
- Bowling alleys
- Churches and similar places of worship
- Clubs, nonresidential
- Community halls
- Courtrooms
- Dance halls
- Daycare Facilities for Children
- Exhibition halls (other than classified in Group E)
- Gymnasias
- Lecture halls
- Libraries
- Licensed beverage establishments
- Museums
- Passenger stations and depots
- Recreational piers
- Restaurants
- Schools and colleges, nonresidential
- Undertaking premises

Group A, Division 3 - Assembly occupancies of the arena type

- Arenas
- Indoor swimming pools, with or without spectator seating
- Rinks

Group A, Division 4 - Assembly occupancies in which occupants are gathered in the open air

- Amusement park structures (not elsewhere classified)
- Bleachers
- Grandstands
- Reviewing stands
- Stadia

Group B, Division 1 - Detention occupancies

- Jails
- Penitentiaries
- Police stations with detention quarters
- Prisons
- Psychiatric hospitals with detention quarters
- Reformatories with detention quarters

Group B, Division 2 - Treatment occupancies

- Care facilities with treatment
- Convalescent /recovery/rehabilitation centres with treatment
- Hospices with treatment
- Hospitals
- Infirmaries
- Nursing homes with treatment
- Psychiatric hospitals without detention quarters
- Respite centres with treatment

Group B, Division 3 - Care occupancies

- Assisted/supportive living facilities
- Care facilities without treatment
- Children's custodial homes
- Convalescent/recovery/rehabilitation centres without treatment
- Group homes
- Hospices without treatment
- Nursing homes without treatment
- Reformatories without detention quarters
- Respite centres without treatment

Group C - Residential occupancies

- Apartments

- Boarding houses
- Clubs, residential
- Colleges, residential
- Convents
- Dormitories
- Hotels
- Houses
- Lodging houses
- Monasteries
- Motels
- Schools, residential

Group D - Business and personal services occupancies

- Banks
- Barber and hairdressing shops
- Beauty parlours
- Dental offices
- Dry cleaning establishments, self-service, not using flammable or explosive solvents or cleaners
- Laundries, self-service
- Medical offices
- Offices
- Police stations without detention quarters
- Radio stations
- Small tool and appliance rental and service establishments

Group E - Mercantile occupancies

- Department stores
- Exhibition halls
- Markets
- Shops
- Stores
- Supermarkets

Group F, Division 1 - High-hazard industrial occupancies

- Bulk plants for flammable liquids
- Bulk storage warehouses for hazardous substances
- Cereal mills
- Chemical manufacturing or processing plants
- Distilleries
- Dry cleaning plants
- Feed mills

- Flour mills
- Grain elevators
- Lacquer factories
- Mattress factories
- Paint, varnish and pyroxylin product factories
- Rubber processing plants
- Spray painting operations
- Waste paper processing plants

Group F, Division 2 - Medium-hazard industrial occupancies

- Aircraft hangars
- Box factories
- Candy plants
- Cold storage plants
- Dry cleaning establishments not using flammable or explosive solvents or cleaners
- Electrical substations
- Factories
- Freight depots
- Helicopter landing areas on roofs
- Laboratories
- Laundries, except self-service
- Mattress factories
- Planing mills
- Printing plants
- Repair garages
- Salesrooms
- Service stations
- Storage rooms
- Television studios not admitting a viewing audience
- Warehouses
- Wholesale rooms
- Woodworking factories
- Workshops

Group F, Division 3 - Low-hazard industrial occupancies

- Creameries
- Factories
- Laboratories
- Light-aircraft hangars (storage only)
- Power plants
- Salesrooms

- Sample display rooms
- Storage garages, including open air parking garages
- Storage rooms
- Warehouses
- Workshops