

1004.5 Areas without fixed seating.

The number of occupants shall be computed at the rate of one occupant per unit of area as prescribed in [Table 1004.5](#). For areas without *fixed seating*, the *occupant load* shall be not less than that number determined by dividing the floor area under consideration by the *occupant load* factor assigned to the function of the space as set forth in [Table 1004.5](#). Where an intended function is not *listed* in [Table 1004.5](#), the *building official* shall establish a function based on a *listed* function that most nearly resembles the intended function.

Exception: Where *approved* by the *building official*, the actual number of occupants for whom each occupied space, floor or building is designed, although less than those determined by calculation, shall be permitted to be used in the determination of the design *occupant load*.

TABLE 1004.5 MAXIMUM FLOOR AREA ALLOWANCES PER OCCUPANT

FUNCTION OF SPACE	OCCUPANT LOAD FACTOR ^a		
Accessory storage areas, mechanical equipment room	300 gross		
Agricultural building	300 gross		
Aircraft hangars	500 gross		
Airport terminal			
Baggage claim	20 gross		
Baggage handling	300 gross	Concourse	100 gross
Waiting areas	15 gross		
Assembly			
Gaming floors (keno, slots, etc.)	11 gross		
Exhibit gallery and museum	30 net		
Assembly with fixed seats	See Section 1004.6		
Assembly without fixed seats			
Concentrated (chairs only—not fixed)	7 net		
Standing space	5 net		
Unconcentrated (tables and chairs)	15 net		
Bowling centers, allow 5 persons for each lane including 15 feet of runway, and for additional areas	7 net		

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Courtrooms—other than fixed seating areas	40 net
Day care	35 net
Dormitories	50 gross
Educational	
Classroom area	20 net
Shops and other vocational room areas	50 net
Exercise rooms	50 gross
Group H-5 fabrication and manufacturing areas	200 gross
Industrial areas	100 gross
Institutional areas	
Inpatient treatment areas	240 gross
Outpatient areas	100 gross
Sleeping areas	120 gross
Kitchens, commercial	200 gross
Library	
Reading rooms	50 net
Stack area	100 gross
Locker rooms	50 gross
Mall buildings—covered and open	See Section 402.8.2
Mercantile	60 gross
Storage, stock, shipping areas	300 gross
Parking garages	200 gross
Residential	200 gross
Skating rinks, swimming pools	
Rink and pool	50 gross
Decks	15 gross
Stages and platforms	15 net
Warehouses	500 gross

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 square foot = 0.0929 m².

a. Floor area in square feet per occupant.

1004.5.1 Increased occupant load.

The *occupant load* permitted in any building, or portion thereof, is permitted to be increased from that number established for the occupancies in [Table 1004.5](#), provided that all other

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substantiating any increase in *occupant load* shall be submitted. Where required by the *building official*, such diagram shall be posted.

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2021 International Building Code (IBC)

Categories:

2021 I-Codes

Alabama I-Codes

Off-Site Construction

Wyoming Connecticut

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Louisiana

About this Title

This code applies to all buildings except detached one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses up to three stories. The 2021 IBC® contains many important changes such as:

- Puzzle rooms (escape rooms) are now defined and regulated as special amusement areas, requiring compliance with Section 411 and special means of egress requirements.
- For the purposes of determining the allowable number of control areas in a building, each portion separated by one or more fire walls is now considered as a separate building.
- In Group E occupancies, enhanced classroom acoustics in compliance with ICC A117.1 are to be provided in all classrooms having of volume of 20,000 cubic feet or less.
- The requirements for metal composite materials and systems (MCM) installed on the exterior walls of Types I, II, III and IV construction were simplified and sprinkler allowances were deleted.

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- Automatic sprinkler protection is now required in Group S-2 open parking garages where any fire area exceeds 48,000 square feet.
- The 2017 edition of ICC A117.1 was adopted.
- Parapets of a minimum height are now required for aggregate-surfaced roofs to prevent blow-off.
- Mixed occupancy buildings with assembly spaces are placed in Risk Category III when the total public assembly occupant load is greater than 2500 people.
- The 2021 IBC snow map is updated to match ASCE 7-16 snow maps by adding a reference to ASCE 7 snow tables in states with large case study areas.
- Secondary rain loads are updated to be consistent with ASCE 7.
- Special inspection requirements were added to address the anchorage and connection of mass timber structural elements.
- Installation of firestop, fire-resistant joint systems and perimeter fire barrier systems in residential-use buildings now requires special inspection in Group R fire areas having an occupant load exceeding 250 people.
- Frost protection for egress doors was added to the foundation requirements.
- ACI standards ACI 117 and ITG 7 were added by reference to provide acceptable tolerances for concrete construction.
- Three new types of construction (Types IV-A, IV-B, and IV-C) allow mass timber buildings of taller heights, more stories above grade, and greater allowable areas compared to existing provisions for heavy timber buildings.

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