

H-3 Occupancy

Buildings or structures that contain materials that readily support combustion or present a physical hazard.

- See Section 202 for definition of "Story above Grade Plane" and Section 502 for definition of "Building Height."
- See Section 505 for buildings containing mezzanines.
- Area indicated is basic allowable for buildings one story in height per Table 503. See Sections 506.4 and 506.5 for allowable areas of buildings more than one story in height.
- See Section 506.2 for allowable area increases for adequate frontage.
- See Sections 506.4 and 506.5 for allowable area limitations for basements.
- For allowable area of mixed-occupancy buildings, see Sections 506.5, 508.2.3, 508.3.2 and 508.4.2.
- Fire walls are to be constructed in accordance with Section 706. See Section 706.1.1 for party walls.
- Based on Table 602, nonbearing exterior walls having a fire separation distance of at least 30 feet do not require a fire-resistance rating.
- See Section 705.5 for fire-resistance-rated construction requirements for exterior walls when considering fire separation distance.
- For protection of projections from exterior walls, see Sections 705.2 and 1406.3. For parapet requirements, see Section 705.11.
- For exterior wall requirements for buildings on the same lot, see Section 705.3.
- In Type I buildings, the fire-resistance ratings of the primary structural frame and interior bearing walls are permitted to be reduced by 1-hour when the frame/walls support a roof only (see Note a, Table 601).
- In other than Type IV construction, interior nonbearing walls and partitions require no fire-resistance rating per Table 601. For interior nonbearing partitions in Type IV construction, see Section 602.4.6.
- For use of combustible material in Type I and II construction, see Section 603.1.
- Reductions in the minimum construction types in high-rise buildings are permitted for Type IA and IB buildings (other than Groups F-1, M and S-1) as set forth in Section 403.2.1.1.
- Heavy timber shall be permitted where 1-hour or less fire-resistant construction is required (see Note c, Table 601).
- In Type I and II construction, fire-retardant-treated wood shall be permitted as part of the roof system, except in Type I buildings greater than two stories with the uppermost story less than 20 feet in height (see Section 603.1, #25.3).
- See Table 1505.1, Note c, for roof coverings of wood shakes or shingles.
- See Section 708.4 for shaft enclosure fire-resistance requirements. For exceptions to shaft enclosure provisions, see Section 708.2.
- For buildings not greater than 420 feet in height, the required rating of shaft enclosures in high-rise buildings (other than exit enclosures and elevator hoistways) may be reduced to 1-hour (see Section 403.2.1.2).
- A shaft enclosure is not required in fully sprinklered buildings at openings for escalators and nonrequired stairways meeting specified conditions (see Section 708.2, Exception 2).
- In other than Group I-2 and I-3 occupancies, a shaft enclosure is not required for openings that comply with the seven conditions of Exception 7 to Section 708.2.
- See Table 803.9 for interior wall and ceiling finish requirements. For floor finishes, see Section 804.

- In buildings fewer than three stories in height, Class B interior finishes are permitted in exit enclosures of nonsprinklered buildings and Class C for sprinklered buildings. (see Table 803.9, Note a)
- See Table 508.2.5 for separation of incidental accessory occupancies.
- In mixed-occupancy buildings regulated as nonseparated occupancies, the most restrictive type of construction shall apply to the entire building (see Section 508.3.1).
- In a mixed-occupancy building where the provisions of Section 508.4 for separated occupancies are utilized, the occupancies shall be separated in accordance with Table 508.4.
- Where a fire wall also separates occupancies that are required to be separated by a fire barrier, the most restrictive requirements of each separation shall apply (see Section 706.1).
- See Table 715.4 for opening protective fire-protection ratings.
- For the maximum area of unprotected and protect openings located in an exterior wall, use Equation 7-2 from Section 705.8.4.
- See Section 705.8.1, Exception 2 for permitted unlimited unprotected openings in buildings whose exterior walls and exterior primary structural frame are not required to be fire-resistance rated.
- For allowances and limitations on Group H-2, H-3 and H-4 fire areas in unlimited area buildings containing Group F or S occupancies, see Section 507.8.
- An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed in all Group H occupancies (see Section 903.2.5.1).
- See the special fire separation distance requirements for buildings containing a Group H-1, H-2 or H-3 occupancy in Section 415.3.1.
- No requirements for exterior wall and opening protection shall apply to Group H-1, H-2 and H-3 buildings required by Table 415.3.2 to be considered as detached storage. (see Section 415.3.2)
- Buildings classified as Group H-2 or H-3 occupancies containing quantities of hazardous materials in excess of those established in Table 415.3.2 (Required Detached Storage) shall be limited to one story in height with no basement. (see Section 415.5)
- When classified as Group H-3 or H-4 occupancies, gas rooms and areas containing highly toxic solids and liquids shall be separated from other portions of the building with minimum 1-hour fire barriers (see Section 415.7).
- Fire areas within a Group H-1, H-2 or H-3 occupancy are not granted a story increase nor an increase in height in feet due to the presence of an automatic sprinkler system (see Exception 2, Section 504.2).
- Group H-1, H-2 and H-3 occupancies are not permitted an allowable area increase for the installation of an automatic sprinkler system (see Exceptions 1 and 2, Section 506.3).
- Areas of Group H-2, H-3, H-4 or H-5 occupancies shall be separated from any other occupancy groups in accordance with Section 508.4. (see Exception I in Sections 508.2.4 and 508.3.3).
- A minimum interior finish classification of Class B is required for rooms and enclosed spaces in Group H occupancies where the building exceeds two stories in height.
- In Group H-2 and H-3 occupancies, unprotected exterior openings are not permitted for openings with a fire separation distance of fewer than 15 feet (see Note e, Table 705.8).
- Where the separated use provisions require a fire barrier between Group S-2 occupancies and other occupancies, the fire rating may be reduced by 1-hour but no less than 1-hour where the Group S-2 is limited to the parking of private vehicles (see Note b, Table 508.4).
- In other than Group R-3 and U occupancies, an automatic sprinkler system shall be provided on windowless stories as set forth in Section 903.2.11.1.
- An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed in all buildings with a floor level having an occupant load of 30 or more located 55 feet or more above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access (see Section 903.2.11.3). See exceptions for airport control towers, open parking garages and Group F-2 occupancies.

- The use of this row is not permitted for H-1, H-2 or H-3 occupancies. (see Note i, Table 705.8)
Protected openings are required for less than 30 feet fire separation distance.
Shaft rating is generally not applicable due to permitted number of stories. Because a story height increase (see Section 504.2) or a basement (see Section 506.4 or 506.5) will change the permitted number of stories, the shaft rating may be applicable.