

The IBC provides regulations on the design of the building based on these inherent conditions and hazards. It regulates the types of materials used in the construction of the building. It regulates the size and height of the building based on the use and the type of materials used in the construction. The exit, or means of egress, system in the building is designed based on the hazards in the building. Fire protection systems are also based on the use of the building.

BASIC OCCUPANCIES

As noted in the introductory paragraph, there are ten different basic *occupancies* in the IBC. Many of those occupancies are then divided into separate subcategories (Table 3-1). The majority of the subcategories are generally listed from the most hazardous use to the least hazardous within the major occupancy classification. For example, a Group F-1 occupancy housing a moderate-hazard factory has more potential hazards than a Group F-2 occupancy that contains a low-hazard factory. It can be noted though that a Group I-1 occupancy is not the most hazardous occupancy in the Institution category. To assist in determining the classification of a building, many of the sections outlining the occupancies have a list of examples. Many buildings have multiple occupancies in them. When this happens, each individual area must be classified into the appropriate occupancy classification. Chapter 6 discusses how these multiple occupancy buildings are addressed. [Ref. 302]

TABLE 3-1 Occupancy classifications

Occupancy group	Description
A-1	Assembly uses, usually with fixed seating, intended for the production and viewing of the performing arts or motion pictures
A-2	Assembly uses intended for food and/or drink consumption
A-3	Assembly uses intended for worship, recreation or amusement and other assembly uses not classified elsewhere in Group A
A-4	Assembly uses intended for viewing of indoor sporting events and activities with spectator seating
A-5	Assembly uses intended for participation in or viewing outdoor activities
B	The use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for office, professional or service-type transactions, including storage of records and accounts.
E	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 and child care facilities.
F-1	Factory industrial uses which are not classified as Factory Industrial F-2 Low Hazard
F-2	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
H-1	Buildings and structures containing materials that pose a detonation hazard
H-2	Buildings and structures containing materials that pose a deflagration hazard or a hazard from accelerated burning
H-3	Buildings and structures containing materials that readily support combustion or that pose a physical hazard
H-4	Buildings and structures which contain materials that are health hazards
H-5	Semiconductor fabrication facilities and comparable research and development areas in which hazardous production materials (HPM) are used.

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