



CITY OF SAN DIEGO - 1222 FIRST AVE., M.S. 501, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: June 2, 2020

Subject: Determination of Permitted Occupant Load Within Tenant Spaces and Buildings

Reopening guidelines from State and County health authorities require reduced numbers of occupants within tenant spaces to comply with social distancing guidelines. The maximum occupant load for a space is determined based upon the California Building Code (CBC).

Maximum occupant loads are required to be publicly posted in assembly spaces such as eating and drinking establishments, hotels or conference centers, among others when occupant loads are greater than 50, or 750 square feet (sf) or larger in area. If the public assembly space is larger than 750 square feet and the occupant load is not posted within the space, see [Information Bulletin 590](#) to obtain an occupant load sign.

Public assembly spaces less than 750 sf in area and non-public assembly spaces, such as barbershops, retail, offices or exercise studios, among others, do not have to post the occupant load publicly.

How to obtain more information?

You may obtain the maximum occupant load for your space from existing permits filed with the Development Services Department [Records Section](#). Alternatively, the maximum occupant load in a room may be calculated from Chapter 10 of the CBC. To determine the occupant load, divide the floor area of the use by the appropriate occupant load factor listed in [CBC Table 1004.5](#) and [Technical Bulletin 10-1](#), which provide the maximum floor area per occupant based upon usage.

Example:

A retail store has a salesroom with an area of 2,000 sf and a stock room with an area of 500 sf. The occupant load factor for sales (mercantile) is 60 sf/occupant, and the stock room (warehouse) occupant load factor is 500 sf.

Maximum occupant load for the space: $(2,000/60) + (500/500) = 33 + 1 = \mathbf{34 \text{ occupants}}$

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