

# Assembly Occupancy Correction List

This list is to be used in conjunction with the attached General Correction List. *This list includes compliance with NFPA Life Safety Code, 2012 edition.* Note that this correction list is not all inclusive. See additional items on the General Correction List.

Items listed require amended construction documents such as revised plans, supplemental instructions, addenda, field orders, or change orders before plans approval will be issued. Answers in letter form may be provided to explain the changes to the construction documents. All drawing revisions should be clouded with a corresponding revision number tag.

This review does not authorize construction to begin. Starting construction before plans approval may result in a Stop Work Order. Rule 0780-02-03-.02(1)

## General

1. Places of public gathering, such as sports and entertainment arenas, musical amphitheaters, stadiums, community and convention halls, amusement facilities, zoos, and specialty event centers in public parks must comply with the Tennessee Equitable Restroom Act. TCA 68-120-501, et. seq. The edition of the building construction standard(s) adopted in Rule 0780-02-02 will determine the minimum number of water closets and plumbing fixtures required for restrooms facilities in public places. Rule 0780-2-18-.03(1)
2. A building or tenant space used for assembly purposes with an occupant load of less than 50 persons shall be classified as a Group B occupancy. IBC 303.1.1
3. A room or space used for assembly purposes with an occupant load of less than 50 persons and accessory to another occupancy shall be classified as a Group B occupancy or as part of that occupancy. IBC 303.1.2 (1.)
4. A room or space used for assembly purposes that is less than 750 square feet (70 m<sup>2</sup>) in area and accessory to another occupancy shall be classified as a Group B occupancy or as part of that occupancy. IBC 303.1.2 (2.)
5. Rooms and spaces used for assembly purposes accessory to an E occupancy are not considered a separate occupancy. IBC 303.1.3
6. Classrooms and auditoriums accessory to assemblies used for religious activities with occupant loads of less than 100 are not considered separate occupancies. IBC 303.1.4
7. The commercial kitchen associated with restaurants, cafeterias and similar dining facilities is also considered an A-2 occupancy. IBC 303.3
8. The rooms and spaces within places of religious worship providing such day care during religious functions shall be classified as part of the primary A-3 occupancy. IBC 305.2.1
9. Due to change of occupancy, the existing building may be required to be structurally upgraded. IBC 3408.1 and 3408.4

## Construction

1. Spaces under grandstands must be separated by fire barriers and horizontal assemblies when used for any purpose other than ticket booths less than 100 square feet and toilet rooms. IBC 1028.1.1.1
2. Assembly occupancies separated into different fire areas must be by 2-hour fire barriers and horizontal assemblies. IBC Table 707.3.10
3. Fire walls shall have a fire-resistance rating of not less than that required by Table 706.4:

**TABLE 706.4  
FIRE WALL FIRE-RESISTANCE RATINGS**

GROUP	FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING (hours)
A, B, E, H-4, I, R-1, R-2, U	3 <sup>a</sup>
F-1, H-3 <sup>b</sup> , H-5, M, S-1	3
H-1, H-2	4 <sup>b</sup>
F-2, S-2, R-3, R4	2

- a. In Type II or V construction, walls shall be permitted to have a 2-hour fire-resistance rating.
- b. For Group H-1, H-2, or H-3 buildings, also see Sections 415.6 and 415.7.

4. Rooms containing high-pressure boilers, refrigerating machinery of other than the domestic refrigerator type, large transformers, or other service equipment subject to explosion shall meet both of the following requirements (NFPA 101, 12.3.2.1.1):
  - (1) Such rooms shall not be located directly under or abutting required exits.
  - (2) Such rooms shall be separated from other parts of the building by fire barriers in accordance with Section 8.3 having a minimum 1-hour fire resistance rating or shall be protected by automatic extinguishing systems in accordance with Section 8.7.
5. Portable unvented fuel-fired heating equipment are prohibited in Group A occupancies. IFC 603.4

## Means of Egress

1. The occupant load for fixed bench seating without dividing arms shall not be less than the number of seats based on one person for each 18" seating length. IBC 1004.4 and NFPA 101, Table 7.3.1.2
2. Occupant load factor for concentrated assembly and multi-use rooms with non-fixed chairs only shall be 1 occupant per 7 sq. ft. net. IBC Table 1004.1.2 and NFPA 101, Table 7.3.1.2
3. The occupant load for tables and chairs not permanently secured to the floor shall not be less than 15 sq. ft. net. IBC 1004.7 and NFPA 101, Table 7.3.1.2
4. For areas having fixed seats and aisles, the occupant load shall be determined by the number of fixed seats installed therein. The occupant load for areas in which fixed seating is not installed, such as waiting spaces, shall be determined in accordance with Section 1004.1.2 and added to the number of fixed seats. IBC 1004.7
5. Exits shall be sufficient for simultaneous occupancy of both the assembly occupancy and other parts of the building. NFPA 101, 12.1.3.2

6. Bleachers, grandstands and folding and telescopic seating, that are not building elements, shall comply with ICC 300. IBC 1028.1.1  
*Note:*
  - (1) *Bleachers* are tiered seating supported on a dedicated structural system and two or more rows high and is not a building element (see "Grandstands"). IBC Section 202 Definitions
  - (2) Bleachers are grandstands in which the seats are not provided with backrests. NFPA 101, 3.3.34
7. Aisles shall not be required in bleachers, provided that all of the following conditions are met: NFPA 101, 12.2.5.6.1.2
  - (1) Egress from the front row shall not be obstructed by a rail, a guard, or other obstruction.
  - (2) The row spacing shall be 28 in. or less.
  - (3) The rise per row, including the first row, shall be 6 in. or less.
  - (4) The number of rows shall not exceed 16.
  - (5) The seat spaces shall not be physically defined.
  - (6) Seat boards that are also used as stepping surfaces for descent shall provide a walking surface with a width not less than 12 in., and, where a depressed footboard exists, the gap between seat boards of adjacent rows shall not exceed 12 in., measured horizontally.
  - (7) The leading edges of seat boards used as stepping surfaces shall be provided with a contrasting marking stripe so that the location of the leading edge is readily apparent, particularly where viewed in descent, and the following shall also apply:
    - (a) The marking stripe shall be not less than 1 in. wide and shall not exceed 2 in. in width.
    - (b) The marking stripe shall not be required where bleacher surfaces and environment conditions, under all conditions of use, are such that the location of each leading edge is readily apparent, particularly when viewed in descent.
8. The number of means of egress in assembly rooms shall not be less than two (2). NFPA 101, 7.4.1.1
  - (1) Occupant load more than 500 but not more than 1000—not less than 3
  - (2) Occupant load more than 1000 — not less than 4
9. In a building, room or space used for assembly purposes that has an occupant load of greater than 300 and is provided with a main exit, the main exit shall be of sufficient width to accommodate not less than one-half of the occupant load, but such width shall not be less than the total required width of all means of egress leading to the exit. Where the building is classified as a Group A occupancy, the main exit shall front on at least one street or an unoccupied space of not less than 10 feet in width that adjoins a street or public way. In a building, room or space used for assembly purposes where there is no well-defined main exit or where multiple main exits are provided, exits shall be permitted to be distributed around the perimeter of the building provided that the total width of egress is not less than 100 percent of the required width. IBC 1028.2
10. Every assembly occupancy shall be provided with a main entrance/exit. The main entrance/exit width shall be as follows (NFPA 101, 12.2.3.6):
  - (1) The main entrance/exit shall be of a width that accommodates two-thirds of the total occupant load in the following assembly occupancies: dance halls, discotheques, nightclubs and assembly occupancies with festival seating.
  - (2) In assembly occupancies, other than those listed in 12.2.3.6.2(1), the main entrance/exit shall be of a width that accommodates one-half of the total occupant load.

11. The maximum exit access travel distance in Assemblies shall be 250 ft. in buildings sprinkled throughout and 200 ft. when unsprinkled. IBC Table 101,6.2 and NFPA 101, 12.2.6.2
12. The common path of egress travel shall be 75 ft. or less in A occupancies. IFC 101,4.3
13. The common path of egress travel shall not exceed 30 feet from any seat to a point where an occupant has a choice of two paths of egress travel to two exits. 1028.8
14. A common path of travel shall be permitted for the first 20 ft. from any point where the common path serves any number of occupants, and for the first 75 ft. from any point where the common path serves not more than 50 occupants. NFPA 101, 12.2.5.1.2  
*Note:* Common Path of Travel is that portion of exit access which the occupants are required to traverse before two separate and distinct paths of egress travel to two exits are available. Paths that merge are common paths of travel. Common paths of egress travel shall be included within the permitted travel distance. IBC Section 202 Definitions
15. Corridors serving more than 30 occupants in an assembly shall be 1 hour fire-rated unless equipped with automatic fire-sprinkler system. IBC Table 1018.1 and NFPA 101, 7.1.3.1
16. Provide dimensions of the width of the aisle accessways, aisles, and other means of egress for assembly areas in accordance with IBC 1028.6, 1028.9, 1028.10 and NFPA 101, 12.2.3.2.
17. A contrasting marking stripe shall be provided on each tread at the nosing or leading edge so that the location of such tread is readily apparent, particularly when viewed in descent. NFPA 101, 12.2.5.6.9.1
18. Ramped aisles having a slope exceeding one unit vertical in 15 units horizontal (6.7-percent slope) and aisle stairs shall be provided with handrails in compliance with Section 1012 located either at one or both sides of the aisle or within the aisle width. IBC 1028.13  
Exceptions:
  - (1) Handrails are not required for ramped aisles having a gradient no greater than one unit vertical in eight units horizontal (12.5-percent slope) and seating on both sides.
  - (2) Handrails are not required if, at the side of the aisle, there is a guard that complies with the graspability requirements of handrails.
  - (3) Handrail extensions are not required at the top and bottom of aisle stair and aisle ramp runs to permit crossovers within the aisles.
19. Where seating rows have 14 or fewer seats, the minimum clear aisle accessway width shall not be less than 12 inches measured as the clear horizontal distance from the back of the row ahead and the nearest projection of the row behind. Where chairs have automatic or self-rising seats, the measurement shall be made with seats in the raised position. Where any chair in the row does not have an automatic or self-rising seat, the measurements shall be made with the seat in the down position. For seats with folding tablet arms, row spacing shall be determined with the tablet arm in the used position. IBC 1028.10.2
20. Rows of seating served by aisles or doorways at both ends shall not exceed 100 seats per row. NFPA 101, 12.2.5.5.4

21. For rows of seating served by an aisle or doorway at only one end of the row, the minimum clear width of 12 inches (305 mm) between rows shall be increased by 0.6 inch for every additional seat beyond seven seats, but the minimum clear width is not required to exceed 22 inches. IBC 1028.10.2.2
22. Doors serving rooms or spaces with an occupant load of 50 or more in a Group A or E occupancy shall not be provided with a latch or lock unless it is panic hardware or fire exit hardware. IBC 1008.1.10 and NFPA 12.2.2.2.3
23. Dead-end aisles shall not exceed 20 ft. unless exceptions are met. NFPA 101, 12.2.5.6.2
24. Aisle stairs and ramps must meet IBC 1028.13 and NFPA 101, 12.2.5.6.4, 12.2.5.6.8.
25. The minimum clear width of aisles shall be sufficient to provide egress capacity in accordance with NFPA 101, 12.2.3.2 but shall not be less than items (1) through (6) above.
26. Aisle stair risers must not be less than 4 in. and must not exceed 8 in. NFPA 101, 12.2.5.6.6(1)&(3)
38. Balcony or mezzanine with a seating capacity of over 50 but not exceeding 100 must have two remote means of egress. IBC 1028.5
39. The required means of egress for a balcony or mezzanine having an occupant load of greater than 100 cannot lead to the floor below. At least one must lead directly to an exit discharge and other may lead to a code complying corridor which leads to fire-resistance enclosed stairway. IBC 1028.5, and NFPA 101, 7.4.1
40. Assembly occupancies with an occupant load of 500 or more located within a covered mall can have main exit open to the open mall. IBC 402.8.4
41. Every assembly area shall have the occupant load posted in a conspicuous place near the main exit of the room. IBC 1004.3 and NFPA 101, 12.7.9.3
50. Projection rooms must have one out swinging, self-closing door not less than 30 inches by 6 feet 8 inches high. NFPA 101, 12.4.6.6

## **Interior**

1. Interior wall and ceiling finish shall have a flame spread index not greater than that specified in Table 803.9. Interior wall and ceiling finish materials tested in accordance with NFPA 286 and meeting the acceptance criteria of Section 803.1.2.1, shall be permitted to be used where a Class A classification in accordance with ASTM E 84 or UL 723 is required. IBC 803.9 & Table 803.9
2. Interior wall & ceiling finishes materials in assembly areas complying with Section 10.2 shall be Class A or B in general assembly areas having occupant loads of more than 300 and shall be Class A, B or C assembly areas having occupant loads of 300 or fewer. NFPA 101, 12.3.3.3

## **Mechanical**

1. (See General Checklist)

## Fire Suppression

1. An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout buildings and portions thereof used as Group A occupancies as provided in this section. For Group A-1, A-2, A-3 and A-4 occupancies, the automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout the floor area where the Group A-1, A-2, A-3 or A-4 occupancy is located, and in all floors from the Group A occupancy to, and including, the nearest level of exit discharge serving the Group A occupancy. For Group A-5 occupancies, the automatic sprinkler system shall be provided in the spaces indicated in Section 903.2.1.5. 903.2.1
  - (1) An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided for Group A-1, A-2, A-3 and A-4 occupancies where any one of the following conditions exists (IBC 903.2.1.1):
    - (a) The fire area is located on a floor other than a level of exit discharge serving such occupancies; or
    - (b) For Group A-1, A-3 and A-4, the fire area exceeds 12,000 sq-ft (5,000 sq-ft for A-2); or
    - (c) For Group A-1, A-3 and A-4, the fire area has an occupant load of 300 or more (100 or more for A-2); or
    - (d) For Group A-1 only, the fire area contains a multitheater complex.
  - (2) An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided for Group A-5 occupancies in the following areas: concession stands, retail areas, press boxes and other accessory use areas in excess of 1,000 sq-ft. IBC 903.2.1.5
2. Any building containing one or more assembly occupancies where the aggregate occupant load of the assembly occupancies exceeds 300 shall be protected by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7 as follows: NFPA 101, 12.3.5.2
  - (1) Throughout the story containing the assembly occupancy
  - (2) Throughout all stories below the story containing the assembly occupancy
  - (3) In the case of an assembly occupancy located below the level of exit discharge, throughout all stories intervening between that story and the level of exit discharge, including the level of exit discharge

## Electrical

1. A manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with Section 907.5 shall be installed in Group A occupancies where the occupant load due to the assembly occupancy is 300 or more. Group A occupancies not separated from one another in accordance with Section 707.3.9 shall be considered as a single occupancy for the purposes of applying this section. Portions of Group E occupancies occupied for assembly purposes shall be provided with a fire alarm system as required for the Group E occupancy. IBC 907.2.1

*Exception:* Manual fire alarm boxes are not required where the building is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 and the occupant notification appliances will activate throughout the notification zones upon sprinkler waterflow.

2. Activation of the fire alarm in Group A occupancies with an occupant load of 1,000 or more shall initiate a signal using an emergency voice/alarm communications system in accordance with Section 907.5.2.2. IBC 907.2.1.1

*Exception:* Where approved, the prerecorded announcement is allowed to be manually deactivated for a period of time, not to exceed 3 minutes, for the sole purpose of allowing a live voice announcement from an approved, constantly attended location.

3. Stadiums, arenas and grandstands required to caption audible public announcements shall be in accordance with Section 907.5.2.2.4. IBC 907.2.1
4. Assembly occupancies with occupant loads of more than 300 and all theaters with more than audience-viewing room shall be provided with an approved fire alarm system in accordance with 9.6.1 and 12.3.4, unless otherwise permitted by 12.3.4.1.2. NFPA 101, 12.3.4.1, NFPA 72, 2010 edition
5. An approved fire alarm system installed in accordance with the provisions of this code and NFPA 72 shall be provided in new buildings and structures in accordance with Sections 907.2.1 through 907.2.23 and provide occupant notification in accordance with Section 907.5, unless other requirements are provided by another section of this code. IBC 907.2
6. A minimum of one manual fire alarm box shall be provided in an approved location to initiate a fire alarm signal for fire alarm systems employing automatic fire detectors or waterflow detection devices. Where other sections of this code allow elimination of fire alarm boxes due to sprinklers, a single fire alarm box shall be installed.

*Exceptions:*

- (1) The manual fire alarm box is not required for fire alarm systems dedicated to elevator recall control and supervisory service.
  - (2) The manual fire alarm box is not required for Group R-2 occupancies unless required by the fire code official to provide a means for fire watch personnel to initiate an alarm during a sprinkler system impairment event. Where provided, the manual fire alarm box shall not be located in an area that is accessible to the public.
7. A manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with Section 907.5 shall be installed in Group A occupancies where the occupant load due to the assembly occupancy is 300 or more. Group A occupancies not separated from one another in accordance with Section 707.3.9 shall be considered as a single occupancy for the purposes of applying this section. Portions of Group E occupancies occupied for assembly purposes shall be provided with a fire alarm system as required for the Group E occupancy. IBC 907.2.1

*Exception:* Manual fire alarm boxes are not required where the building is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 and the occupant notification appliances will activate throughout the notification zones upon sprinkler waterflow.

8. Activation of the fire alarm in Group A occupancies with an occupant load of 1,000 or more shall initiate a signal using an emergency voice/alarm communications system in accordance with Section 907.5.2.2. IBC 907.2.1.1

*Exception:* Where approved, the prerecorded announcement is allowed to be manually deactivated for a period of time, not to exceed 3 minutes, for the sole purpose of allowing a live voice announcement from an approved, constantly attended location.

9. Fire alarm occupant notification for assembly occupancies may be by visual signals and/or pre-recorded evacuation signal. NFPA 101, 2010 edition 12.3.4.3, 12.3.4.3.4, 9.6.3.7, and 9.6.3.9

10. Activation of the fire alarm in Group A occupancies with an occupant load of 1000 or more shall initiate a signal using an emergency voice/alarm communications system in accordance with Section 907.5.2.2. IBC 907.2.1.1 & IFC 907.2.1.1
11. Stadiums, arenas and grandstands required to caption audible public announcements shall be in accordance with section 907.5.2.2.4. IBC 907.2.1.2 & IFC 907.2.1.2