



City of Seattle
Department of Planning & Development

2006 SBC Code Solution

Sec. 508.3.2
Occupant Load Determination within a
Nonseparated Occupancy
Release Date: **March 27, 2009**

The following interpretation, policy or code alternate is intended to provide guidance to staff for consistency of review and is subject to change without notice. Application of this interpretation, policy or code alternate to specific projects may vary.

Code Issue:

In a building with non-separated occupancies, how should the occupant load be calculated to determine whether sprinklers are required by Chapter 9?

Example: A one-story building has an A-2 restaurant with an occupant load of 75 (~1,700 square feet including kitchen and restrooms) next to a B office with an occupant load of 15 (~1,600 square feet).

Interpretation/Policy:

In a building with non-separated occupancies, the occupant load used to determine whether Chapter 9 requires sprinklers is to be based on the actual proposed occupancies, not on the assumption that the most restrictive occupancy occupies the entire fire area.

If you have questions about whether this code solution applies to your project:

- *If you have submitted a permit application, contact the Building Code plan reviewer assigned to your application*
- *If you have not submitted an application, contact DPD Building Code Technical Support at 206-684-4630 or in person at the Applicant Services Center. Visit the Applicant Services Center website for more information about hours and location http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Permits/Process_Overview/Location_Hours/default.asp*



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