

**BUILDING CODE ACTION COMMITTEE
IBC OCCUPANCY COMMITTEE
2024 PLANNING**

Monograph ccp #	Related Change	CAH Results	Topic	Public Comment Submitted	Result	Notes
G14-18		D	Assembly and Education	No	D	

G14-18

IBC: 303.1, 303.1.3

Proponents: Ed Kulik, Chair, representing ICC Building Code Action Committee (bcac@iccsafe.org)

2018 International Building Code

Revise as follows:

SECTION 303 ASSEMBLY GROUP A

303.1 Assembly Group A. Assembly Group A occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for the gathering of persons for purposes such as civic, social or religious functions; recreation, food or drink consumption or awaiting transportation.

303.1.3 Associated with Group E occupancies. A room or space used for assembly purposes that is associated with a Group E occupancy, with an occupant load of 300 or less, is not considered a separate occupancy.

Reason: To be consistent, the exceptions for assembly spaces in Section 303.1.1 through 303.1.4 (below) seem to indicate that the exceptions are intended for small spaces. However, the language in 303.1.3 has been widely interpreted. Some people feel this should be limited to spaces just typically open to students - such as libraries, music rooms, band rooms, and cafeterias. Others have interpreted this to include large gymnasiums and auditoriums with significant seating. While a school basketball game may be a school function, there would be students from another school, as well as significant number of the public, including a high percentage of families. The same concern for large number of the public also hold true in an auditorium.

303.1.1 Small buildings and tenant spaces. A building or tenant space used for assembly purposes with an occupantload of less than 50 persons shall be classified as a Group B occupancy.

303.1.2 Small assembly spaces. The following rooms and spaces shall not be classified as Assembly occupancies:

1. 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.

2. A room or space used for assembly purposes that is less than 750 square feet (70 m2) in area and accessory to another occupancy shall be classified as a Group B occupancy or as part of that occupancy.

303.1.3 Associated with Group E occupancies. A room or space used for assembly purposes that is associated with a Group E occupancy is not considered a separate occupancy.

303.1.4 Accessory to places of religious worship. Accessory religious educational rooms and religious auditoriums with occupant loads of less than 100 per room or space are not considered separate occupancies.

This also may be considered a conflict with Section 302.1 which states "A room or space that is intended to be occupied at different times for different purposes shall comply with all of the requirements that are applicable to each of the purposes for which the room or space will be occupied."

This proposal is submitted by the ICC Building Code Action Committee (BCAC). BCAC was established by the ICC Board of Directors in July 2011 to pursue opportunities to improve and enhance assigned International Codes or portions thereof. In 2017 the BCAC has held 3 open meetings. In addition, there were numerous Working Group meetings and conference calls for the current code development cycle, which included members of the committee as well as any interested party to discuss and debate the proposed changes. Related documentation and reports are posted on the BCAC website at: <https://www.iccsafe.org/codes-tech-support/codes/code-development-process/building-code-action-committee-bcac>.

Cost Impact: The code change proposal will increase the cost of construction

This code change proposal will increase the cost of construction. Sprinkler system installation in new construction for a Group A can vary from \$1.00 to \$3.00 per square foot. This proposal will require larger gymnasiums and auditoriums associated with a Group E occupancy to be protected with a fire suppression system in areas where the previous interpretation was to allow these larger spaces to be considered part of the Group E occupancy.

IBC - General

2018 Group A - Report of the Committee Action Hearing Results

G14-18

Committee Action:

Disapproved

Committee Reason: The proposed change doesn't accomplish a great deal. Treating a school's larger assembly spaces as a separate occupancy will create problems for design and use of the buildings. The 300 occupant factor seems arbitrary. The change is regressive. The issue has been dealt with in the past and the current language provides the solution to that previous debate. (Vote 13-1)

Assembly Motion:

None

Online Vote Results:

Failed - Support 0% (0) Oppose 0% (0)

G14-18