Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7730

Date February 23, 2016

Edition 2014

Section 303.1.1

Question:

Is it the intent of the FBC 2015 5TH Edition(2014)Building Section 303.1.1 to utilize an occupant load factor of 100 gross/person (Business) to determine the occupancy load of a restaurants (A-2) dining and kitchen spaces instead of 15 net/person (dining area) and 200 gross/person(kitchen)?

Answer

No. If you read the occupant load factor in Table 1004.1.2, it lists "Function of Space" not "occupancy". Please see the attached commentary for additional information.

Commentary:

While the occupancy classification may be Business when the OL is less than 50, the use or function is still A-2 for the determination of egress capacity, etc. The net areas of 7, 5, and 15 sq. ft./person or the number of fixed seats and the 200 gross sq. ft. for the kitchen area are used to determine whether the occupant load is below the 50 persons to allow classification as Group B. Please note the heading of column 1 of Table 1004.2 is "Function of Space"; not occupancy
classification of space.

Notice:
The Building Officials Association of Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission, the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation, ICC, and industry and professional experts offer this interpretation of the Florida Building Code in the interest of consistency in their application statewide. This interpretation is informal, non-binding and subject to acceptance and approval by the local building official.