



## Informal Interpretation Report Number 8315



**Date** August 23, 2019

**Edition** 2017

**Section** Table 1004.1.2

### **Question:**

There appears to be a conflict in the occupant load for mercantile occupancies between the Florida Building Code (60 sf/person) and the Florida Fire Prevention Code, 6th ed., Table 7.3.1.2 (30 sf/person on ground floor). Which is the correct occupant load for ground floor mercantile occupancy under the current versions of the Florida codes?

### **Answer**

Both. You have to take each code and review separately for the applicable code provisions of Mercantile use. Yes, there is a difference of occupant load calculation. Please see the attached commentary

### **Commentary:**

On plans being submitted, often times the designer breaks up the code summary into two charts. One for FBC and one for FFPC. There is no conflict between the FBC and FFPC if you can meet both requirements. If there was a conflict and you could not meet both requirements, then you would use the conflict resolution listed above in the code which requires the use of the one providing the highest degree of life safety. In the case of the mercantile, it comes down to how occupants are determined and sprinkler and other requirements. Based on a conversation with a Fire Protection Specialist, it all works out to be the same at the end of a review. There is no true conflict, just a different way of review.

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### **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.