Informal Interpretation Report
Number 8323

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Section 303.1.1, FBC, BUILDING

Question:

Is it the intent of Section 303.1.1 to allow for the recalculation of the occupant load (using the business occupant load factor) after it has initially been determined (using the assembly occupant load factor) that a building or tenant spaced being used for assembly purposes (small restaurant) has an occupant load of less than 50 persons which results in the space being classified as a Group B occupancy?

Answer

You have to follow code path, so you would first recognize it as an A2 use due to it being a food service. Then Section 303.1.1 (after you have determined the occupant load) classifies it as a Group B. This allows the design professional to meet code compliance to a business use. Chapter 10 means of egress requirements are reduced to allow a single exit, travel distance reductions and such for the "Business" use instead of the "assembly" requirements.
It appears to meet the group "B" classification

Commentary:

None.

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.