



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 8669**



Date July 11, 2022

Edition 2021

Section 403.1

Question:

Is the intent of 403.1.1 (for calculation involving 2 occupancies) to calculate the plumbing fixtures based on an assembly occupied room (recreational painting classes) within a mercantile occupancy and take precedent over 402.2 which would allow a mercantile occupancy of 100 or less to only have one unisex toilet room?

Answer

Florida Building Code - Plumbing (FBC-P) Section 402.2 does not apply to the proposed question. FBC-P Section 403.1 requires fixtures to be provided on the use of the building or space and the occupant count based on the FBC. Based only on the information provided, it appears the new space is accessory to and within an existing M group. Based on this information and Section 303.1.1 (excerpted below) of the FBC, the room for painting classes should be classified as M and if the total occupant count remains 100 or less and no additional fixtures are required. However, if the room is not accessory to the M group, then it should be classified as B resulting in requiring additional fixtures per FBC-P 403.2 exception 4

Commentary:

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.

403.2 Separate facilities.

Where plumbing fixtures are required, separate facilities shall be provided for each sex.

Exceptions:

1. Separate facilities shall not be required for dwelling units and sleeping units.
2. Separate facilities shall not be required in structures or tenant spaces with a total occupant load, including both employees and customers, of 15 or fewer.
3. Separate facilities shall not be required in mercantile occupancies in which the maximum occupant load is 100 or fewer.
4. Separate facilities shall not be required in business occupancies in which the maximum occupant load is 25 or

fewer.

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.