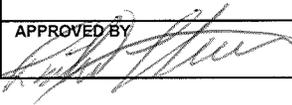


TECHNICAL BULLETIN

CITY OF RALEIGH, N.C.  <small>SUBJECT</small> Design Occupant load	<small>SECTION</small> 1004.1	<small>PAGE</small> 217	<small>EFFECTIVE DATE</small> 8/1/2015
	<small>PREPARED BY</small> L. Skinner	<small>APPROVED BY</small> 	

SECTION 1004 OCCUPANT LOAD

1004.1.1 Areas without fixed seating.

The number of occupants shall be computed at the rate of one occupant per unit of area as prescribed in Table 1004.1.1. For areas without fixed seating, the occupant load shall not be less than that number determined by dividing the floor area under consideration by the occupant per unit of area factor assigned to the occupancy as set forth in Table 1004.1.1. Where an intended use is not listed in Table 1004.1.1, the building official shall establish a use based on a listed use that most nearly resembles the intended use.

Exception: Where approved by the building official, the actual number of occupants for whom each occupied space, floor or building is designed, although less than those determined by calculation shall be permitted to be used in the determination of the design occupant load.

In the NC Building Code, Section 1004 and Table 1004.1.1 gives the requirements for calculating occupancy loads based on the type use or function of the space per Table 1004.1.1. However, Section 1004.1.1 Areas without Fixed Seating, allows an exception which states that the actual number of occupants can be reduced by what is required by calculations when approved by the Building Official. In an effort to create consistency among internal and external staff, developers, and design professionals this Technical Bulletin will provide the means of approval for section 1004.1.1.

The code section above is not clear about methods used to determine occupancy loads. Therefore, the owner or design professional would need to provide a complete floor plan layout show the furniture, exit location, path of travel and any area that would need to be netted out of the occupant load calculation for review by the Chief Building Inspector and or the Chief Code Official.

After the Chief Building Inspector or Chief Building Official has approved the reduced occupant loads based of the information provided, the approved occupant load will apply to Section 403.1 and Table 403.1, of the NC Plumbing Code for Minimum Plumbing Facilities, Section 403 and Table 403.3, of the NC Mechanical Code for Minimum Ventilation Rates and Article 518 of the NC Electrical Code as it applies.