



OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATIONS

CITY OF LACONIA FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION
848 NORTH MAIN STREET, LACONIA, NH 03246

Call (603) 524-6881 for appointments and information

FIRE
PREVENTION
General

100-5

March, 2025

OCCUPANCY TYPES AND CLASSIFICATIONS:

Places of Assembly:

An occupancy:

- (1) Used for a gathering of fifty (50) or more persons for deliberation, worship, entertainment, eating, drinking, amusement, awaiting transportation, or similar uses.
- (2) Used as a special amusement building, regardless of occupant load.
- (3) Other facilities as determined by the city and the State of NH.

Assembly occupancies include the following:

<i>Armories</i>	<i>Libraries</i>
<i>Assembly Halls</i>	<i>Mortuary Chapels</i>
<i>Auditoriums</i>	<i>Motion picture theaters</i>
<i>Bowling lanes</i>	<i>Museums</i>
<i>Club rooms</i>	<i>Passenger stations and terminals of air, surface, underground, and marine public transportation facilities</i>
<i>College and university classrooms, 50 persons and over</i>	<i>Places of religious worship</i>
<i>Conference rooms</i>	<i>Pool rooms</i>
<i>Courtrooms</i>	<i>Recreation piers</i>
<i>Dance halls</i>	<i>Restaurants</i>
<i>Drinking establishments</i>	<i>Skating rinks</i>
<i>Exhibition halls</i>	
<i>Gymnasiums</i>	

Occupancy of any room or space for assembly purposes by fewer than fifty (50) persons in a building or other occupancy and incidental to such other occupancy shall be classified as part of the other occupancy and shall be subject to the provisions applicable thereto.

Theaters:

Occupancy of any room or space for assembly purposes by fifty (50) or more persons in a building for the purpose on viewing films or live production for entertainment.

Educational:

An occupancy used for educational purposes through the twelfth (12th) grade by six (6) or more persons for four (4) or more hours per day or more than twelve (12) hours per week.

Educational occupancies include the following:

*Academies
Kindergartens*

*Nursery schools
Schools*

Other occupancies associated with educational institutions shall be in accordance with the appropriate sections of this chapter. In cases where instruction is incidental to some other occupancy, the section of this chapter governing such other occupancy shall apply.

Health Care:

An occupancy used for purposes of medical or other treatment or care of four (4) or more persons where such occupants are mostly incapable of self-preservation due to age, physical or mental disability, or because of security measures not under the occupants' control.

Health care occupancies include the following:

*Hospitals
Limited care facilities*

*Nursing homes
Ambulatory health care centers*

Detention and Correctional:

An occupancy used to house four (4) or more individuals under varied degrees of restraint or security where such occupants are mostly incapable of self-preservation because of security measures not under the occupants' control.

Detention and correctional occupancies include the following:

*Adult and juvenile substance
abuse facilities*

*Adult local detention facilities
Juvenile community residential
centers*

*Adult and juvenile work camps
Adult community residential
centers*

*Juvenile detention facilities
Juvenile training schools*

Adult correctional institutions

*Other uses within detention and correctional facilities, such as gymnasiums or
industries, shall be in accordance with the appropriate section of this chapter.*

Residential:

Residential occupancies are those occupancies in which sleeping accommodations are provided for normal residential purposes and include all buildings designed to provide sleeping accommodations.

EXCEPTION: Those occupancies classified under health care or detention and correctional.

Residential occupancies shall be treated separately according to the following usage groups:

Single Family Homes:

Single family dwellings include buildings containing one dwelling unit, which is occupied by members of a single family or with no more than 4 unrelated individuals.

Two Family Homes:

Two family dwellings include buildings containing not more than two dwelling units in which each dwelling unit is occupied by members of a single family.

Apartment Buildings:

A building containing three (3) or more dwelling units with independent cooking and bathroom facilities.

Dormitories, Hotels and Motels:

A dormitory is a building or a space in a building in which group sleeping accommodations are provided for more than sixteen (16) persons who are not members of the same family in one room or a series of closely associated rooms under joint occupancy and single management, with or without meals, but without individual cooking facilities.

A hotel or motel is a building or groups of buildings under the same management in which there are sleeping accommodations are provided for more than sixteen (16) persons and primarily used by transients for lodging with or without meals.

Lodging and Rooming Houses

A building or portion thereof that does not qualify as a one-, two- or three-family dwelling, that provides sleeping accommodations for a total of sixteen (16) or fewer people on a transient or permanent basis, without personal care services, with or without meals, but without separate cooking facilities for individual occupants.

Board and Care Facilities:

A building or portion thereof that is used for lodging and boarding of four (4) or more residents, not related by blood or marriage to the owners or operators, for the purpose of providing personal care services.

Mercantile:

An occupancy used for the display and sale of merchandise.

Mercantile occupancies include the following:

<i>Auction rooms</i>	<i>Shopping centers</i>
<i>Department stores</i>	<i>Supermarkets</i>
<i>Drugstores</i>	<i>Restaurants (< 50 occupants)</i>

Business:

Any occupancy used for account and record keeping or the transaction of business other than mercantile.

Business occupancies include the following:

<i>Air traffic control towers (ATCTs)</i>	<i>Courthouses</i>
<i>City/Town Halls</i>	<i>Dentist's offices</i>
<i>College and university instructional buildings, classrooms under 50 persons and instructional laboratories</i>	<i>Doctor's offices</i>
	<i>General offices</i>
	<i>Outpatient clinics ambulatory</i>

Industrial:

An occupancy in which products are manufactured or in which processing, assembling, mixing, packaging, finishing, decorating, or repair operations are conducted.

Industrial occupancies include the following:

<i>Dry cleaning plants</i>	<i>Laundries</i>
<i>Factories of all kinds</i>	<i>Power plants</i>
<i>Food Processing plants</i>	<i>Pumping stations</i>
<i>Gas plants</i>	<i>Refineries</i>
<i>Hangars (for servicing or maintenance)</i>	<i>Sawmills</i>
	<i>Telephone exchange facilities</i>

Storage:

An occupancy used primarily for the storage or sheltering of goods, merchandise, products, vehicles, or animals.

Storage occupancies include the following:

<i>Barns</i>	<i>Hangars (for storage only)</i>
<i>Bulk oil storage</i>	<i>Parking structures</i>
<i>Cold storage</i>	<i>Stables</i>
<i>Freight terminals</i>	<i>Truck and marine terminals</i>
<i>Grain elevators</i>	<i>Warehouses</i>

Day Care Centers:

An occupancy in which four (4) or more clients receive care, maintenance and supervision by other than their relatives or legal guardians, for less than twenty-four (24) hours per day.

Day care occupancies include the following:

*Child day-care occupancies
Day-care homes (4 to 11 clients)
Adult day-care occupancies,
Except where part of a health care occupancy*

*Kindergarten classes that are
incidental to a child day-care
occupancy*

In cases where care is incidental to some other occupancy, the section of this chapter governing such other occupancy shall apply.

Mixed Occupancy:

When two or more classes of occupancy occur in the same building or structure and are intermingled so that separate safeguards are impractical, means of egress facilities, construction, protection, and other safeguards shall comply with the most restrictive life safety requirements of the occupancies involved.

EXCEPTION: An occupancy incidental to operations in another occupancy shall be permitted to be considered as part of the predominant occupancy and shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter that apply to the predominant occupancy.

Special Hazards:

In a building where a fire alarm system is exempted due to the minimum square footage provisions of this document or other Codes, an alarm system may be required by the AHJ where it is proven that life safety of the occupants is compromised due to the proximity of exposures, limitations to fire department vehicle access or other such hazardous conditions.

High Rise Structures:

A high-rise building is defined as a building more than **seventy-five feet (75')** in height measured from the lowest level of fire department vehicle access to the highest occupiable story.

An occupiable story is a story occupied by people on a regular basis. Stories used exclusively for mechanical equipment rooms, elevator penthouses and similar spaces are not occupiable stories.