



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	8/14/09	Interpretation	09-003
Topic	Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (I-1)		
Code Section(s)	2007 California Building Code Section 310.2		
Requested by	John Amanat Associate Principal Perkins Eastman Architects 468 19 th Street Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 601-5200 www.perkinseastman.com		

- 1. In licensed Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE) classified as an I-1 occupancy per Section 308.2 and defined in accordance with Section 310.2, are assembly areas such as dining/activity spaces greater than 750 square feet in area, but less than 10% of the overall floor area considered as a Group A or B occupancy or are these spaces to be classified as an I-1 occupancy?**

Classification would be a Group A occupancy. In accordance with 2007 CBC Section 303.1 exception 3 if the assembly area is 750 sf or more it is an A occupancy regardless of floor area percentage.

No, see 2007 CBC Sections 708.6, 715.1, Table 715.4 and 715.4.3.

- 2. If assembly areas such as dining/activity spaces greater than 750 square feet in area are classified as Group A or B occupancies, can these spaces be open to the corridor of the I-1 Occupancy without opening protection if the building is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with NFPA 13?**

No, the overriding factor in this mixed use is the I-1 occupancy that requires the one-hour corridor. Thus any openings or penetrations from other occupancies must be protected. The 2007 CBC Sections 708.6 states that openings in a fire partition shall be protected in accordance with Section 715; See 2007 CBC Section 15.1, Table 715.4 and 715.4.3.

3. **Section 407.2.1 Spaces of unlimited area, for 1-2 occupancies, states that “waiting areas and similar spaces constructed as required for corridors shall be permitted to be open to a corridor...” We request your interpretation as to what types of spaces would be considered “similar spaces”.**

Small areas that is limited in use such as an entrance lobby, foyer, Reception area and check-in areas would be considered “similar spaces.

State Fire Marshal Interpretation Comments

Code Interpretation Committee
Code Interpretation
Date
Summary

Division Chief Review
Code Interpretation
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