



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	11/4/2009	Interpretation	09-045
Topic	Occupancy Classification of a High School Laboratory		
Code Section(s)	2007 CBC, Laboratory Classrooms Section 304.1, 313.1, Section 443.2		
Requested by	Donald S. Rice Senior Associate WLC Architects, Inc. 8163 Rochester Avenue, Suite 100 Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 (909) 987-0909 www.wlcarchitects.com		

This letter is sent as a formal request for an interpretation of the provisions of Title 24, Part 2, Volume 1, 2007 California Building Code, Chapter 3, Section 304.1, Section 313.1 and Chapter 4, Section 443.2 and subsequent Occupancy Separations of Table 508.2 and 508.3.3.

The interpretation requested is a two part question as listed below:

- 1. What is the proper occupancy classification of a high school science laboratory classroom (Grades 9 through 12) whose quantities of chemicals do not exceed the limits as listed in Table 307.1(1). Is it a B Occupancy according to Section 304.1 Laboratories: Testing, research and (SFM) instruction; an E Occupancy according to Section 305.1; or an L Occupancy according to Section 313.1 as defined in Section 443.2.**

The Occupancy classification for a high school science laboratory classroom Grades 9 thru 12 is a Group E. Where hazardous materials are used, the provisions of 414 would also apply. The Group E laboratory must be separated from other rooms by a one hour separation per Table 508.2. However, the Group L Occupancy provisions may be permitted as a design option.

- 2. Then, in consideration of what occupancy classification is determined for these spaces, what requirement should be followed for the occupancy separation of the classroom. Those listed in Table 508.2 or Table 508.3.3.**

Those listed in Table 508.2 should be followed for the occupancy separation of the classroom.