



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

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| Date Issued | December 16, 2014 | Interpretation | 14-011 |
| Topic | Laboratories, vocational shops and other such areas not classified as Group H, located in Group E occupancies | | |
| Code Section(s) | 2013 CBC Table 509 and §509.3 | | |
| Requested by | Division of the State Architect David E. Casey, Principal Fire & Life Safety Officer | | |
| Date Received | June 25, 2014 | | |

Question: Is the amendment to Table 509 (“Rooms or areas with special hazards such as laboratories, vocational shops and other such areas not classified as Group H, located in Group E occupancies where hazardous materials in quantities not exceeding the maximum allowable quantity are used or stored”) subject to the provisions of §509.3 Area Limitations (“Incidental uses shall not occupy more than 10 percent of the building area of the story in which they are located.”)?

Answer: No. The intent of the SFM amendment within Table 509 is to require a 1 hour separation between rooms or areas with special hazards such as laboratories, vocational shops and other such areas not classified as Group H, located in Group E occupancies and the adjacent classrooms or prep rooms. §509.3 sets forth that incidental uses cannot occupy more than 10 percent of the building area of the story. §509.4 requires that incidental uses listed in Table 509 shall be separated.

Rooms or areas with special hazards such as laboratories, vocational shops and other such areas not classified as Group H, located in Group E occupancies where hazardous materials in quantities not exceeding the maximum allowable quantity are used or stored must be separated from the remaining of the building by a 1 hour separation.