



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	08-07-00	Interpretation #	00-006
Topic	Charter Schools		
Code Section(s)			
Requested by	Joel Aranaz, Fire Marshal Fresno Fire Department Bureau of Fire Prevention 450 "M" Street Fresno, CA 93721-3083		
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1. Are charter schools classified as Group E-1 or E-2 occupancies?

All facilities must be classified into the occupancy they most nearly resemble. In the case of a charter school, that would be either a Group E, Division 1 or Group E, Division 2 occupancy, depending on the occupant load.

2. If a charter school is locate in other than a designated Group E, Division 1 or Group E, Division 2 occupancy, shall the local jurisdiction require a change of occupancy for the building and enforce applicable provisions of the California Building Code, California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations, and such other codes?

Charter schools are not exempt from fire and life safety regulations. It is clear in Section 47605 of the California Education Code that the Legislature intended that charter schools should be considered as an integral part of the California education system. As such, charter schools should be provided with the same level of fire and life safety protection as any other school in the State. Therefore, a building housing a charter school should be classified as either a Group E, Division 1 or Group E, Division 2 with all applicable regulations enforced by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.