



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	11/16/2006	Interpretation #	06-037
Topic	Calculation of Occupancy Load for Assembly Areas		
Code Section(s)	California Building Code Section 1003.2.2.3.1		
Requested by	Brian Weidman Fire Inspector Beverly Hills Fire Department		

1. When calculating the maximum occupancy load of an assembly area, is CBC 10A the appropriate code section to use?

Yes. California Building Code Table 10A is appropriate for assembly areas without fixed seats.

2. If the area in question is being used for drinking/dining only, would the occupant load factor for less-concentrated use at 1 person per 15 square feet be correct and are there any exceptions?

Yes. 1 to 15 would be correct, however, the California Building Code, Section 1003.2.2.3.1 does provide for an exception that allows the building official to increase the occupant load as long as the max occupant load does not exceed the capacity of the egress system.

3. Does section 1003.2.2.3.1 apply to State Fire Marshal regulated occupancies such as public assemblies?

Yes.

4. Is the maximum occupant load based on the use (Table 10-A) or can extra exits allow for an increase in occupant load?

Refer to question # 2