



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	2/2/2009	Interpretation	08-064
Topic	Occupancy Separation Between an I and F-1		
Code Section(s)	2007 California Building Code Section 508.3.3		
Requested by	Jake T. Tomlin Fire Marshal Bureau of Fire Prevention City of Tracy 835 Central Avenue Tracy, CA 95376 (209) 831-6707 jake.tomlim@ci.tracy.ca.us		

The following is a formal request for Code Interpretation regarding occupancy separation requirement between 1-2.1 occupancy and a B Occupancy. The building in question is Type II-A construction, two stories, 25,000 square feet, and fully sprinkler protected. The proposed use of the first floor is as a mixed use occupancy 1-2.1/B, and the entire second floor is proposed as a B occupancy.

The pertinent code section (s) are California Building Code, Section 508.3.3 (Separated Occupancies), and Table 508.3.3 (Required Separation of Occupancies). In accordance with Table 508.3.3 the base separation requirement is 2-hours between an I Occupancy and B Occupancy. However, the 2-hour requirement is amended by footnote (f.) an SFM amendment, which states the following:

- f.[SFM] For Group I and F-I occupancies shall have a 3-hour separation.

Is the intent of footnote (f.) to require a 3-hour occupancy separation between an I-2.1 and B Occupancies, or is the intent of footnote (f.) to only require a 3-hour separation between a Group I and F-1 Occupancy?

No. The 2007 CBC Table 508.3.3, footnote *f*. applies only to the occupancy separation between a Group I and F-1 Occupancies.