



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	7/25/2011	Interpretation	10-050
Topic	Separated occupancies versus non-separated occupancies.		
Code Section(s)	2007 California Building Code		
Requested by	Armin Wolski, Associate Principal ,Arup 560 Mission St., Suite 700 San Francisco, CA 94105		

We are writing to request an interpretation to the 2007 California Building Code (CBC). The question relates to how the State Fire Marshal amendments throughout the code may differ from a building with separated occupancies versus non-separated occupancies.

1. If I have an assembly building (a cafeteria for example) in a low rise sprinklered B occupancy that is a million square feet, can I separate out the assembly occupancy with an occupancy separation such that only the assembly occupancy is regulated by the OSFM as per Section 111?

Yes, however other elements (e.g. means of egress) that are shared must comply with the provisions for the most restrictive occupancy.

2. Does the remainder of the building, being a low rise B occupancy, require enclosed elevator lobbies? Section 111 does not indicate that the entire building is regulated by the OSFM but only the A occupancy.

Yes, where Group B occupancy has a Group A occupancy on a floor served by an elevator.

3. The broader question is whether or not ANY other OSFM amendments apply to the remainder of the low rise B occupancy (other amendments that come to mind include allowable area/height calculation methods and fire proofing of the structural frame).

Each building and configuration of such having mixed occupancies with SFM regulated occupancies must be addressed individually. Area and height calculations are performed separately and then combined as described in CBC Chapter 5.

Where non-separated the most restrictive provisions shall apply.

However, the California Building Standards Codes are flexible in many ways and have methods of design that afford for reductions or allowances. Such reductions or allowances may limit the impact to the occupancies that are not specifically regulated by the SFM.