

Change of Occupancy Classification and Use Designation

If an existing building or a space within an existing building is proposed to be used for a different occupancy than it was last officially permitted for, then a Building Permit must be applied for to determine if the building or space complies with current Code requirements for the proposed new occupancy classification and use designation.

The proposed new occupancy classification may prompt modifications to various building parameters such as means of egress, plumbing fixture count, accessibility accommodations, mechanical system demands, structural loading, etc.

Also, various Fire Code suppression or separation factors may come into play and/or need to be revised or increased.

The intent of this Code requirement is for building departments to review proposed new occupancies that may present a higher risk to life safety or welfare of the occupants than was created by the previous (or existing) occupancy.

The 2021 IBC (International Building Code) defines *Change of Occupancy* as follows:

Either of the following shall be considered as a change of occupancy where this code requires a greater degree of safety, accessibility, structural strength, fire protection, *means of egress*, ventilation or sanitation than is existing in the current building or structure:

1. Any change in the occupancy classification of a building or structure.
2. Any change in the purpose of, or a change in the level of activity within, a building or structure.

The *Design Occupancy Load* of the proposed occupancy is the primary parameter that needs to be determined. It is explained on another page on our website:

<https://www.slcdocs.com/building/Occupant%20Load%20Calculation.pdf>

Please include a Design Occupancy Load calculation when submitting a *Change of Occupancy Classification and Use Designation* Building Permit application.

Thank you.