

(Effective March 15, 2024)

WAC 51-54A-1004 Occupant load.

1004.5 Areas without fixed seating. The number of occupants shall be computed at the rate of one occupant per unit of area as prescribed in Table 1004.5. For areas without fixed seating, the occupant load shall be not less than that number determined by dividing the floor area under consideration by the occupant load factor assigned to the function of the space as set forth in Table 1004.5. Where an intended function is not listed in Table 1004.5, the *fire code official* shall establish a function based on a listed function that most nearly resembles the intended function.

EXCEPTION: Where approved by the fire code official, the actual number of occupants for whom each occupied space, floor, or building is designed, although less than those determined by calculation, shall be permitted to be used in the determination of the design occupant load.

1004.5.1 Increased occupant load. The occupant load permitted in any building, or portion thereof, is permitted to be increased from that number established for the occupancies in Table 1004.5, provided that all other requirements of the code are met based on such modified number and the occupant load does not exceed one occupant per 7 square feet (0.65 m²) of occupiable floor space. Where required by the *fire code official*, an approved aisle, seating or fixed equipment diagram substantiating any increase in occupant load shall be submitted. Where required by the *fire code official*, such diagram shall be posted.

**Table 1004.5
Maximum Floor Area Allowances Per Occupant**

Function of Space	Occupant Load Factor^a
Accessory storage areas, mechanical equipment room	300 gross
Agricultural building	300 gross
Aircraft hangars	500 gross
Airport terminal Baggage claim Baggage handling Concourse Waiting areas	20 gross 300 gross 100 gross 15 gross
Assembly Gaming floors (keno,slots, etc.) Exhibit gallery and museum Billiard table/game table area	11 gross 30 net 50 gross
Assembly with fixed seats	See Section 1004.6
Assembly without fixed seats Concentrated (chairs only - Not fixed) Standing space Unconcentrated (tables and chairs)	7 net 5 net 15 net
Bowling centers, allow 5 persons for each lane including 15 feet of runway and for additional areas	7 net
Business areas Concentrated business use areas	150 gross See Section 1004.8
Courtrooms - Other than fixed seating areas	40 net
Day care	35 net
Dormitories	50 gross
Educational	

Function of Space	Occupant Load Factor^a
Classroom area Shops and other vocational room areas	20 net 50 net
Exercise rooms	50 gross
Fixed guideway transit and passenger rail systems Platform Concourse/lobby	100 gross (See Section 4901)
Group H-5 fabrication and manufacturing areas	200 gross
Industrial areas	100 gross
Institutional areas Inpatient treatment areas Outpatient areas Sleeping areas	240 gross 100 gross 120 gross
Kitchens, commercial	200 gross
Library Reading rooms Stack area	50 net 100 gross
Locker rooms	50 gross
Mall buildings - Covered and open	See Section 402.8.2 of the IBC
Mercantile Storage, stock, shipping areas	60 gross 300 gross
Parking garages	200 gross
Residential	200 gross
Skating rinks, swimming pools Rink and pool Decks	50 gross 15 gross
Stages and platforms	15 net
Warehouses	500 gross
For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 square foot = 0.0929 m ²	

^a Floor area in square feet per occupant.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 19.27.031 and 19.27.074. WSR 22-13-093, 23-12-107, and 23-20-027, § 51-54A-1004, filed 6/14/22, 6/7/23, and 9/25/23, effective 3/15/24.]