

WHAT IS AN ASSEMBLY OCCUPANCY?

INTRODUCTION TO OCCUPANCIES IN THE IBC SERIES BY MEYERFIRE UNIVERSITY | JANUARY 2023

SUMMARY

An Assembly (Group A) Occupancy is used for the gathering of people. It is defined in IBC 303.1. Assembly Occupancies are categorized as A-1 to A-5:

- **Assembly A-1** includes assembly uses “intended for the **production and viewing of the performing arts or motion pictures.**”
 - Examples include motion picture theaters, symphony and concert halls, television and radio studios admitting an audience, and theaters.
- **Assembly A-2** includes “assembly uses **intended for food and/or drink consumption.**”
 - Examples include Banquet halls, Nightclubs, Restaurants, cafeterias, Taverns and bars.
- **Assembly A-3** includes uses “intended for worship, recreation or amusement and other assembly **uses not classified elsewhere** in Group A.”
 - Examples include: Art galleries, Bowling alleys, Community halls, Courtrooms, Exhibition halls, Lecture halls, Libraries, Museums
- **Assembly A-4** includes “assembly uses **intended for viewing of indoor sporting events** and activities **with spectator seating** including.”
 - Examples include Arenas, Skating rinks, Swimming pools, and Tennis courts.
- **Assembly A-5** includes “assembly uses intended for **participation in or viewing outdoor activities.**”
 - Examples include Amusement Park structures, Bleachers, Grandstands, and Stadiums.

There are **four key situations** where a space used for assembly purposes is **actually not classified as an Assembly Occupancy**:

- **Small buildings** and tenant spaces (IBC Section 303.1.1)
- Room or space **less than 50 occupants** or under 750 SF used for assembly purposes and accessory to another occupancy (IBC 303.1.2)
- Areas used for assembly purposes **associated with Group E occupancy** (IBC Section 303.1.3)
- **Religious educational and religious auditorium rooms** with occupant loads **less than 100 people** per space (IBC Section 303.1.4)



Assembly A-1
(Movie Theater)



Assembly A-2
(Nightclub)



Assembly A-3
(Lecture Hall)



Assembly A-4
(Pool with Spectator Seating)



Assembly A-5
(Grandstands/Stadium)

CODE/STANDARD REFERENCES



IBC – 2021: Section 303.1 – Definition of Assembly Occupancy, with Groups

IBC – 2021: Section 303.1.1 – 303.1.4 – Situations with Assembly use that is not considered an Assembly Occupancy

VIDEO LINK

www.meyerfire.com/university/what-is-an-assembly-occupancy

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