

British Columbia Building Code Requirements

3.1.17.1. Occupant Load Determination

- 1)** The *occupant load* of a *floor area* or part of a *floor area* shall be based on
 - a) the number of seats in an *assembly occupancy* having fixed seats,
 - b) 2 persons per sleeping room in a *dwelling unit*, or
 - c) the number of persons for which the area is designed, but not less than that determined from Table 3.1.17.1. for *occupancies* other than those described in Clauses (a) and (b), unless it can be shown that the area will be occupied by fewer persons.
- 2)** If a *floor area* or part thereof has been designed for an *occupant load* other than that determined from Table 3.1.17.1., a permanent sign indicating that *occupant load* shall be posted in a conspicuous location.
- 3)** For the purposes of this Article, *mezzanines*, tiers and balconies shall be regarded as part of the *floor area*.
- 4)** If a room or group of rooms is intended for different *occupancies* at different times, the value to be used from Table 3.1.17.1. shall be the value which gives the greatest number of persons for the *occupancies* concerned.

Table 3.1.17.1.
Occupant Load
 Forming Part of Article 3.1.17.1.

Type of Use of <i>Floor Area</i> or Part Thereof	Area per person, m ²
Assembly uses	
space with fixed seats	(1)
space with non-fixed seats	0.75
<i>stages</i> for theatrical performances	0.75
space with non-fixed seats and tables	0.95
standing space	0.40
stadia and grandstands	0.60
bowling alleys, pool and billiard rooms	9.30
classrooms	1.85
school shops and vocational rooms	9.30
reading or writing rooms or lounges	1.85
dining, beverage and cafeteria space	1.20
laboratories in schools	4.60
Care, <i>treatment</i> or detention uses	
<i>suites</i>	(2)
<i>care, treatment</i> and sleeping room areas	10.00
detention quarters	11.60
Residential uses	
<i>dwelling units</i>	(2)
dormitories	4.60
Business and personal services uses	
personal services shops	4.60
offices	9.30
Mercantile uses	
<i>basements and first storeys</i>	3.70
second storeys having a principal entrance from a pedestrian thoroughfare or a parking area	3.70
other storeys	5.60
Industrial uses	
manufacturing or process rooms	4.60
<i>storage garages</i>	46.00
storage spaces (warehouse)	28.00
aircraft hangars	46.00
Other uses	
cleaning and repair goods	4.60
kitchens	9.30
storage	46.00