May 14, 2020

WHAT IS MY OCCUPANT LOAD?

The Metro West Fire Protection District has adopted the 2015 International Fire Code (IFC). This Code contains requirements that regulate occupant loads in order to establish minimum required means of egress from all buildings and spaces.

The number of occupants (occupant load) is computed at the rate of a number of square feet per person.

The most common occupancies asked about, and their square feet per person are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function of space</th>
<th>Sq. ft. per person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beauty/hair salons</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gym/fitness centers</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail/sales</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office spaces</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In general, divide the square foot area of your space by the appropriate number of square feet per person.

EXAMPLE: If you have a 2,000 square foot hair salon, divide 2,000 by 100.
2,000 ÷ 100 = 20.
Your occupant load is 20.

NOTE: The computation above will only determine your NORMAL occupant load—NOT the reduced occupant load that may be required for COVID-19 prevention guidelines.

Given the example above, if you are limited to 25% of your normal occupant load you would be allowed 5 people in your hair salon (2,000 ÷ 100 = 20 x .25 = 5).
Please feel free to call us at 636-458-2100 Option #3- if your type of business is not listed above, or if you have any questions regarding your normal occupant load.

Questions regarding the reduced occupant load requirements should be directed to the St. Louis County Health Department at 314-615-0600, or visit their Corona website at https://stlcorona.com/dr-pages-messages/public-health-orders/.

Sincerely,

J. Rodney Cook

Deputy Chief / Fire Marshal
636.821.5806