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BUILDINGS BULLETIN 2008-002

Code Interpretation

Supersedes: None

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Issuance Date: June 26, 2008

Purpose: This document is to clarify 1) that Section BC 414 applies to all spaces that contain hazardous materials regardless of quantity of such materials and occupancy classification, and regardless of whether the space is an incidental use area, and 2) that spaces listed on Table 508.2 as incidental use areas are classified as a Group H occupancy if the quantities exceed those found in Tables 307.7(1) and 307.7(2).

Related Code Section(s):	BC 307.1	BC 307.7 (1) (Table)	BC 307.7 (2) (Table)
	BC 414.1	BC 508.2.1	

Subject(s): Hazardous materials, Incidental use areas with hazardous materials
Occupancy Classification, Incidental use areas with hazardous materials

1) Applicability of Section 414

Section BC 414.1 sets forth the applicability of Section 414:

“414.1 General. The provisions of this section shall apply to buildings and structures occupied for the manufacturing, processing, dispensing, use or storage of hazardous materials.”

Thus, Section 414 applies to all spaces that include the manufacturing, processing, dispensing, use or storage of hazardous materials, regardless of quantity or occupancy classification, and regardless of whether the space is designated as an incidental use area pursuant to Section BC 508.2. However, the applicability of the individual subsections of Section BC 414 are in some cases limited to particular occupancy groups (for example: Section BC 414.2.4 applies only to Group M or S occupancies; Section 414.7 applies only to Group H occupancies).

2) Classification of Group H occupancies

Section 307.1 establishes when a space is classified as a High-Hazard Group H Occupancy:

“307.1 High-Hazard Group H. High-Hazard Group H occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, that involves the manufacturing, processing, generation or

storage of materials that constitute a physical or health hazard in quantities in excess of those found in Tables 307.7(1) and 307.7(2) (see also definition of 'Control area')."

The provisions of Section BC 508.2.1 relating to incidental use areas may permit a space that is incidental to a main occupancy to be classified in accordance with such main occupancy:

"508.2.1 Occupancy classification. A space that is listed in Table 508.2 and is incidental to a main occupancy shall be considered an incidental use area. An incidental use area shall be classified in accordance with the main occupancy to which the use is incidental"

However, when a space is subject to Section BC 307.1, it cannot be considered an incidental occupancy nor any other Occupancy Classification, and can only be classified as High-Hazard Group H.

EXAMPLE: A factory occupancy has a storage room over 100 square feet that would qualify as an incidental occupancy. However, if the room is used for the storage of hazardous materials in quantities in excess of those found in Tables 307.7(1) and 307.7(2), then such room must be classified as Group H and cannot be considered incidental to the F occupancy.