



Fire Department

HEADQUARTERS

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CODE SUMMARY

GROUP B OCCUPANCIES - GENERAL BUSINESS

A code summary is a compilation of code sections related to a specific occupancy or permit. This code summary lists sections of code pertaining to General Business Buildings and operations as defined by the **California Fire Code**. Under each heading you will find the correlating code language and the reference cited. These requirements pertain to existing buildings. New construction may be subject to additional requirements. Please feel free to direct any questions to the Fire Prevention Division at (805) 681-5500.

SCOPE

Group B Occupancy defined:

Business Group B occupancy includes the use of a building or structure, for office, professional or service-type transactions, including storage of records and accounts, educational occupancies above the 12th grade with an occupant load of less than 50 people.

1. Extinguishers Required:

- A. One Class 2-A rated fire extinguisher shall be provide for each 3000 sq. ft. of ordinary hazard fuel load. Travel distance shall not exceed 75 feet. (CFC 906.3)
- B. If Class B fuel hazards are present, a Class B rated fire extinguisher shall be provided in accordance with Table 906.3(2) of the CFC. (CFC 906.3)

| TYPE OF HAZARD | BASIC MINIMUM EXTINGUISHER RATING | MAXIMUM TRAVEL DISTANCE TO EXTINGUISHERS | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--------------|
| | | (in feet) | (in meters) |
| <i>Light (low)</i> | <i>5B</i> | <i>30</i> | <i>9.15</i> |
| | <i>10B</i> | <i>50</i> | <i>15.25</i> |
| <i>Ordinary (moderate)</i> | <i>10B</i> | <i>30</i> | <i>9.15</i> |
| | <i>20B</i> | <i>50</i> | <i>15.25</i> |
| <i>Extra (high)</i> | <i>40B</i> | <i>30</i> | <i>9.15</i> |
| | <i>80B</i> | <i>50</i> | <i>15.25</i> |

- C. Fire extinguisher shall not be obstructed or obscured from view. (CFC 906.6)
- D. Fire extinguishers not housed in cabinets, shall be installed on the hangers or brackets supplied. Hangers or brackets shall be securely anchored to the mounting surface in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions. (CFC 906.7)
- E. Extinguishers shall be inspected monthly by the building owner or occupant, or electronically monitored. (T19 Sec. 574.1)
- F. Extinguishers shall be subject to maintenance annually by licensed technician. (T19 Sec. 575.1)

2. Means of Egress:

- A. For occupant load greater than 49 people, see exit requirements for Assembly Occupancy.
- B. Means of egress shall be continuously maintained free from obstructions. (CFC 1003.6)
- C. Means of egress doors shall travel in direction of egress travel when occupant load is greater than 49. (CFC 1008.1.2)
- D. Egress doors shall be readily openable from the egress side without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort.
Exception: The main exterior door or doors are permitted to be equipped with key-operated locking devices from the egress side provided a sign is posted on the egress side stating "This door is to remain unlocked when building is occupied". (CFC 1008.1.9)
- E. [Manually operated flush bolts or surface bolts are not permitted. \(CFC 1008.1.9.4\)](#)
- F. The unlatching of any door shall not require more than one operation. (CFC 1008.9.5)
- G. Means of egress shall not pass through kitchens, storage rooms, closets or spaces used for similar purposes, or through rooms subject to locking. (CFC 1014.2)
- H. [Two exits shall be provided from buildings when the building has more than one story above grade plane, when the number of occupants per floor exceed 49, or when travel distance to any exit in the building is greater than 75 feet. \(CFC 1015.2\)](#)
- I. [Total travel distance to an exit shall not exceed 200 feet in non-sprinklered buildings and 300 feet in sprinklered buildings. \(CFC 1016.1\)](#)
- J. Minimum clear aisle width shall not be less than 36 inches. (CFC 1017.3)
- K. Required corridors shall not be less than 36 inches for a required occupancy capacity of less than 50. (CFC 1018.2)
- L. Where more than one exit is required, there shall be no dead end corridors more than 20 feet. (CFC 1018.4)

3. Housekeeping:

- A. Combustible waste containers larger than 40 gallons shall be constructed of noncombustible material or approved combustible material and provided with a lid. (CFC 304.3)
- B. Combustible waste containers larger than 1.5 cubic yards shall not be stored in buildings or placed within 5 feet of combustible walls, openings or combustible roof eave lines. (CFC 304.3)
- C. Materials subject to spontaneous ignition, such as oily rags, shall be stored in a listed disposal container. (CFC 304.3.1)
- D. Storage of combustible materials shall be orderly, with storage separated from heating devices by a distance or shielded so that ignition cannot occur. (CFC 315.3)
- E. Storage shall be maintained 2 feet or more below the ceiling in nonsprinklered areas or a minimum of 18 inches below sprinkler deflectors in sprinklered areas of buildings. (CFC 315.3.1)
- F. Combustible materials shall not be stored in boiler rooms, mechanical rooms or electrical equipment rooms. (CFC 315.3.3)

4. Electrical

- A. A working space of not less than 30 inches in width, 36 inches in depth, and 78 inches in height shall be provided in front of electrical service equipment. Storage is prohibited within the designated working space. (CFC 605.3)
- B. Multiplug adaptors, such as cube adaptors, unfused plug strips or other such devices not complying with the California Electrical Code shall be prohibited. (CFC 605.4)
- C. Extension cords shall not be affixed to structures, extended through walls, ceilings or floors, or under doors or floor covering nor subject to physical damage. (CFC 605.4.3)
- D. Extension cords shall not be used in place of permanent wiring. (CFC 605.5)
- E. Appliance cords and extension cords shall be maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration or damage. (CFC 605.5.3)
- F. Open junction boxes and open wiring splices shall be prohibited. Approved covers shall be provided for all switch and electrical outlet boxes. (CFC 605.6)

- G. Temporary wiring is allowed for a period not to exceed 90 days; such wiring is allowed for longer periods for construction, remodeling, or repair work. (CFC 605.9)

5. Flammable and Combustible Liquids:

- A. An operational permit is required for the storage, handling or use of more than 5 gallons of flammable liquid indoors or 10 gallons of flammable liquid outdoors. (CFC 105.6.16)
- B. An operational permit is required for the storage, handling or use of more than 25 gallons of combustible liquid indoors or 60 gallons of combustible liquid outdoors. (CFC 105.6.16)
- C. An operational permit is required to conduct spraying or dipping operation utilizing flammable or combustible liquids or the application of combustible powders. (CFC 105.6.41)
- D. Spray finishing operations shall be conducted in a spray room, spray booth or limited spraying space approved for such use. (CFC 2404.2)
- E. Storage of flammable liquids shall not exceed 30 gallons of Class1A flammable liquid or 120 gallons of Class1B and 1C flammable liquids per control area. Storage of Combustible liquids shall not exceed 120 gallons of Class 2 combustible liquid or 330 gallons of Class 3A combustible liquid. (CFC 5704.3.4.2)
Exceptions:
 - 1. Maximum allowable quantities shall be increased 100 percent in buildings equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system.
 - 2. Maximum allowable quantities shall be increased 100 percent when stored in approved storage cabinets, day boxes, gas cabinets, exhausted enclosures or listed safety cans.
 - 3. Where exception #1 and #2 both apply, increase for both exceptions shall be applied accumulatively.
- F. Quantities of flammable and combustible liquids in excess of 10 gallons used for maintenance purposes and operation of equipment shall be stored in liquid storage cabinets. (CFC 5704.3.4.4)

6. Miscellaneous:

- A. Fire access roads shall be marked with approved signs or markings that state "NO PARKING FIRE LANE". Marking shall be maintained in clean, legible condition and repaired when necessary. (CFC 503.3)
- B. An approved fire apparatus access road not less than 20 wide shall be provided for access to within 150 feet of all portions of the building. (CFC 503.1.1)
- C. Fire access roads shall not be obstructed in any manner, including the parking of vehicles. (CFC 503.4)
- D. Exterior doors and their function cannot be eliminated without approval. If approved, and door retains the appearance as a functional, door shall be posted on the exterior "THIS DOOR BLOCKED". (CFC 504.2)
- E. All buildings shall have approved address numbers or building numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible from the street or road fronting the property. (CFC 505.1)

NOTE: Blue indicates those requirements that pertain to new construction. No reference to these requirements in the existing construction section (Chapter 11)