

The Responsible RestartOhio guidelines issues on 4/27/2020 refer to the Ohio Fire Code occupant loads and recommend limiting the number of workers and patrons in a space to 50% of the fire code occupant limit.

For your reference, below is an excerpt from Rule 10 of the 2017 Ohio Fire Code, also known as the Ohio Administrative Code **1301:7-7-10 Means of egress**

The table in the code refers to the number of square feet of floor space that must be maintained per occupant. An occupant load for a given space can be calculated by calculating the square footage of floor space, then dividing by the load factor associated with the occupancy type, resulting in the maximum occupant load for fire safety. The RestartOhio guideline then reduces this occupant load by 50% to further reduce the spread of disease.

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#### (D) Section 1004 Occupant load

(1) **[BE] 1004.1 Design occupant load.** In determining means of egress requirements, the number of occupants for whom means of egress facilities are provided shall be determined in accordance with this *paragraph*.

(a) **[BE] 1004.1.1 Cumulative occupant loads.** Where the path of egress travel includes intervening rooms, areas or spaces, cumulative occupant loads shall be determined in accordance with this *paragraph*.

(i) **[BE] 1004.1.1.1 Intervening spaces or accessory areas.** Where occupants egress from one or more rooms, areas or spaces through others, the design occupant load shall be the combined occupant load of interconnected accessory or intervening spaces. Design of egress path capacity shall be based on the cumulative portion of occupant loads of all rooms, areas or spaces to that point along the path of egress travel

(ii) **[BE] 1004.1.1.2 Adjacent levels for mezzanines.** That portion of the occupant load of a mezzanine with required egress through a room, area or space on an adjacent level shall be added to the occupant load of that room, area or space.

(iii) **[BE] 1004.1.1.3 Adjacent stories.** Other than for the egress components designed for convergence in accordance with *paragraph (E)(6)( 1005.6 ) of this rule*, the occupant load from separate stories shall not be added.

(b) **[BE] 1004.1.2 Areas without fixed seating.** The number of occupants shall be computed at the rate of one occupant per unit of area as prescribed in Table 1004.1.2 *of this rule*. For areas without fixed seating, the occupant load shall be not less than that number determined by dividing the floor area under consideration by the occupant load factor assigned to the function of the space as set forth in Table 1004.1.2 *of this rule*. Where an intended function is not listed in Table 1004.1.2 *of this rule*, the fire code official shall establish a function based on a listed function that most nearly resembles the intended function.

**Exception:** Where approved by the building official, the actual number of occupants for whom each occupied space, floor or building is designed, although less than those determined by calculation, shall be permitted to be used in the determination of the design occupant load.

**[BE] Table 1004.1.2**

**Maximum floor area allowances per occupant**

<b>Function of space</b>	<b>Occupant load factor<sup>a</sup></b>
Accessory storage areas-mechanical equipment room	300 gross
Agricultural building	300 gross
Aircraft hangars	500 gross
Airport terminal	20 gross
Baggage claim	300 gross
Baggage handling	100 gross
Concourse	15 gross
Waiting areas	
Assembly	11 gross
Gaming floors (keno, slots, etc.)	30 net
Exhibit gallery and museum	
Assembly with fixed seats	<i>See paragraph (D)(4)( 1004.4 ) of this rule</i>
Assembly without fixed seats	7 net
Concentrated (chairs only-not fixed)	5 net
Standing space	15 net
Unconcentrated (tables and chairs)	
Bowling centers, allow 5 persons for each lane including 15 feet of runway, and for additional areas	7 net
Business areas	100 gross

Courtrooms-other than fixed seating areas	40 net
Day care	35 net
Dormitories	50 gross
Educational Classroom area	20 net
Shops and other vocational room areas	50 net
Exercise rooms	50 gross
Group H-5 fabrication and manufacturing areas	200 gross
Industrial areas	100 gross
Institutional areas	240 gross
Inpatient treatment areas	100 gross
Outpatient areas	120 gross
Sleeping areas	
Kitchens, commercial	200 gross
Library	50 net
Reading rooms	100 gross
Stack area	
Locker rooms	50 gross
Mall buildings-covered and open	See Section 402.8.2 of the <i>building code as listed in rule <a href="#">1301:7-7-80</a> of the Administrative Code</i>
Mercantile	60 gross
Storage, stock, shipping areas	300 gross
Parking garages	200 gross
Residential	200 gross

Skating rinks, swimming pools	50 gross
Rink and pool	15 gross
Decks	
Stages and platforms	15 net
Warehouses	500 gross

For SI: 1 square foot = 0.0929 m<sup>2</sup>, 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

a. Floor area in square feet per occupant.

(2) **[BE] 1004.2 Increased occupant load.** The occupant load permitted in any building or portion thereof, is permitted to be increased from that number established for the occupancies in Table 1004.1.2 *of this rule* provided that all other requirements of the code are met based on such modified number and the occupant load does not exceed one occupant per 7 square feet ( 0.65 m<sup>2</sup>) of occupiable floor space. Where required by the fire code official *pursuant to paragraph (A)(1)( 1001.1 ) of this rule*, an approved aisle, seating or fixed equipment diagram substantiating any increase in occupant load shall be submitted. Where required by the fire code official, such diagram shall be posted. *At locations or in structures not regulated by the building code as listed in rule [1301:7-7-80](#) of the Administrative Code, the increased occupant load shall be approved by the fire code official.*

(3) **[BE] 1004.3 Posting of occupant load.** Every room or space that is an assembly occupancy shall have the occupant load of the room or space posted in a conspicuous place, near the main exit or exit access doorway from the room or space. Posted signs shall be of an approved legible permanent design and shall be maintained by the owner or the owner's authorized agent.

(4) **[BE] 1004.4 Fixed seating.** For areas having fixed seats and aisles, the occupant load shall be determined by the number of fixed seats installed therein. The occupant load for areas in which fixed seating is not installed, such as waiting spaces, shall be determined in accordance with *paragraph (D)(1)(b)(1004.1.2) of this rule* and added to the number of fixed seats.

The occupant load of wheelchair spaces and the associated companion seat shall be based on one occupant for each wheelchair space and one occupant for the associated companion seat provided in accordance with section 1108.2.3 of the *building code as listed in rule [1301:7-7-80](#) of the Administrative Code.*

For areas having fixed seating without dividing arms, the occupant load shall be not less than the number of seats based on one person for each 18 inches (457 mm) of seating length.

The occupant load of seating booths shall be based on one person for each 24 inches (610 mm) of booth seat length measured at the backrest of the seating booth.