

PA Fire and Panic Act Regulations: Classifications and Major Safety Requirements Per Classification

Occupancy Code	Description	No. of Exits	Travel Distance to Exits	Manual or Automatic Fire Alarms	Emergency Lighting System	Fire Extinguishers	Automatic Fire Sprinklers¹
A-1	Buildings primarily used or designed for the purpose of assembly of 501 or more persons for amusement, entertainment, worship, transportation, recreation, sports, military drilling, dining or similar purposes.	Min. of 3 exits.	Total length of travel from any point to an exit must not exceed 150 feet.	Not required.	Required.	Min. of 1 fire extinguisher with a 2-A rating for each 5,000 sq. ft., but no less than 1 per floor, inc. basement; extinguisher with 10-B rating required in each kitchen.	Automatic sprinklers required in all storage rooms over 100 sq. ft., maintenance rooms and boiler/heater rooms, except where boiler/heater room equipment is operated solely by electricity.
A-2	Buildings primarily used or designed for the purpose of assembly of 101 to 500 persons for amusement, entertainment, worship, transportation, recreation, sports, military drilling, dining or similar purposes.	Min. of 2 exits.	Total length of travel from any point to an exit must not exceed 150 feet.	Not required.	Required.	Min. of 1 fire extinguisher with a 2-A rating for each 5,000 sq. ft., but no less than 1 per floor, inc. basement; extinguisher with 10-B rating required in each kitchen.	Automatic sprinklers required in all storage rooms over 100 sq. ft., maintenance rooms and boiler/heater rooms, except where boiler/heater room equipment is operated solely by electricity.
A-3	Buildings primarily used or designed for the purpose of assembly of 4 to 100 persons for amusement, entertainment, worship, transportation, recreation, sports, military drilling, dining or similar purposes.	Min. of 2 exits.	Total length of travel from any point to an exit must not exceed 150 feet.	Not required.	Required.	Min. of 1 fire extinguisher with a 2-A rating for each 5,000 sq. ft., but no less than 1 per floor, inc. basement; extinguisher with 10-B rating required in each kitchen.	Not required.
B	Buildings primarily used or designed for the purpose of education or instruction or day care. Note: Nursery schools, day care centers and	Min. of 2 exits. No more than 50% of the required exit	Total length of travel from any point to an exit must not exceed 150 feet.	Manual alarms required if more than 4 classrooms.	Required.	Min. of 1 fire extinguisher with a 2-A rating for each 5,000 sq. ft., but no less than 1 per floor, inc. basement; extinguisher	Not required.

	group day care homes could be classified as B occupancies and they could be housed in a building that has an A, C-1 or C-2 occupancy permit, without submitting plans or receiving approval as a B occupancy.	capacity of auditoriums, gymnasiums, cafeterias and similar areas may exit into the same unseparated corridor network.				with 10-B rating required in each kitchen.	
C-1	Health care institutions include buildings that provide sleeping facilities for 4 or more persons who are mostly incapable of self-preservation because of physical or mental illness or disease, or persons convalescing from physical or mental illness or disease, including hospitals, sanitariums, nursing homes, convalescent homes, rest homes and the like. (Personal care homes licensed by the Dept. of Public Welfare are not health care institutions.) Health care institutions must comply with <i>NFPA-101</i> and other requirements imposed by the PA Dept. of Health which approved the plans and inspected the construction for all C-1s.						
C-2	A building, or part thereof, where the occupants are in group habitation and are not included under classifications C-1, C-3, C-4 or C-5. Hotels, apartment buildings, multiple dwellings, dormitories, lodging houses, orphanages,	Min. of 2 exits.	Total length of travel from any point to an exit must not exceed 200 feet.	Must have manual alarms, if more than 2 stories in height or if building has 10,000 sq. ft. of gross building area, by exterior dimensions. Automatic fire alarm	Required in buildings with more than 10,000 sq. ft. of floor area or if more than 2 stories in height.	Fire extinguishers with a minimum 2-A rating must be provided: in apartment units, 1 per unit; in other C-2 occupancies, 1 for each 3,000 sq. ft. or minimum of 1 fire extinguisher per floor,	Not required.

	children's residential institutions, large personal care homes (C2-LP - 9 or more residents), group homes, group foster homes and the like are C-2s. (Note: C2-LPs should not house persons incapable of self-preservation.) Residents of C2-LPs should all be capable of self-preservation.			systems are required in all C-2 occupancies, except when buildings are totally protected by automatic sprinkler systems. Smoke detectors required in corridors, stairs and rooms of the building except as follows: rooms of individual apartment units, hotel or motel sleeping rooms, or dormitory rooms with sleeping accommodations for five or less persons. Heat detectors allowed in kitchens, restrooms, boiler rooms, furnace rooms and other special rooms as approved by the Department.		including basement. Extinguisher with 10-B rating required in each kitchen.	
C-3	Buildings with 1 living unit where 4 through 8 residents are in group habitation, including small personal care homes (C3-SP), dormitories, lodging houses, orphanages, group homes and group foster homes. Residents of C3-SPs should all be capable of self-preservation.	If 1 or 2 stories, min. of 1 exit from each floor; 3 or more stories, min. of 2 exits from each floor.	None specified. (Residents had to be limited to floor levels not more than 2 stories above exit discharge, except that residents of small personal care homes were limited to floor levels not more than 1 story above exit discharge.)	Manual fire alarms not required. Automatic alarms required in all.	Not required.	Min. of 1 fire extinguisher with a 2-A rating for each 3,000 sq. ft., but no less than 1 per floor, inc. basement; extinguisher with 10-B rating required in each kitchen.	Not required.
C-4	Apartment units with a single means of egress.	Exit must be a stair tower except when unit exited directly on grade. A unit occupying more than 1	None specified.	Manual fire alarms are not required. Automatic fire alarms required unless building is totally protected by automatic sprinklers.	Not required.	Min. of 1 2-A:10-B fire extinguisher per living unit and 1 2-A extinguisher in basement area not used as living unit.	Not required.

		floor level was only required to have an exit from 1 floor level.					
D-O	Buildings primarily used or designed for manufacturing, assembling, warehousing, sale or storage of combustible (but not highly flammable products and materials) and buildings used for offices and the like.	Min. of 2 exits, except that 1-story buildings of 1,200 sq. ft. or less may have 1 exit.	Total length of travel from any point to an exit must not exceed 150 feet.	Manual fire alarms required in buildings with more than 2 stories and with more than 5,000 sq. ft. of floor space above the second story. Automatic detection systems are not required except when the D-0 occupancy shares building with another occupancy group.	Required for buildings with more than 2 stories, with more than 5,000 sq. ft. of floor space above the second floor, in the mall portion of enclosed shopping malls and in stores with more than 4,000 sq. ft. of public access space.	Min. of 1 fire extinguisher with a 2-A rating for each 5,000 sq. ft., but no less than 1 per floor, inc. basement; extinguisher with 10-B rating required in each kitchen.	Not required.
D-H Hazardous	Buildings containing highly combustible, explosive or unstable products or materials that constitute a special fire, life or toxic hazard because of the forms, characteristics or volume of the materials used. (If just a portion of a building is so used, entire building must be classified as a D-H.)	Min. of 2 exits.	Total length of travel from any point to an exit must not exceed 100 feet.	Manual fire alarms required in buildings with more than 1 story. Automatic fire alarm systems not required except when the D-H occupancy shares the building with another occupancy group.	Required for building with more than 1 story or if building has more than 75 occupants.	Min. of 1 fire extinguisher with a 4-B rating for each 5,000 sq. ft., but no less than 1 per floor, inc. basement.	Not required.

1. Sprinklers or fire-rated assemblies might be required if height, construction-type or travel distance limitations for a particular occupancy classification are exceeded. All buildings that were approved for occupancy after May 19, 1984 and that had an exterior face extending 75 feet when measured from the ground level to five feet above the highest occupied floor level were required to be totally protected with automatic sprinklers.