

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
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Two Means of Egress Required for Child Day Care Rooms and Spaces

Code: 2012 Building Code
Section: 426.1, Table 1015.1

Date: September 1, 2011
Rev: August 1, 2014

Question:

When the occupant load for a Group E day care is calculated to be greater than 10 would child day care spaces that have an occupant load of more than 10 (children plus the appropriate number of caregivers) be required to have two exits for egress from the space?

Answer:

Yes. Section 426.1.2 requires 2 means of egress for all Group E day care facilities. There is an exception in that section that allows a single means of egress from a room that has a door directly to the exterior of the building and the room is on the level of exit discharge. However, Footnote a in Table 1015.1 still requires 2 means of egress from the room if the room has an occupant load greater than 10.

Group E occupancies that are not day care facilities are not required to comply with Section 426.1.2 or Footnote a of Table 1015.1.

Code References:

Section 426.1.2 Number of exits. Group E and R-4 adult and child day care facilities shall have two exits.

Exception: Rooms where occupants receive care are located on the level of exit discharge and each of these rooms has an exit door directly to the exterior.

TABLE 1015.1
SPACES WITH ONE MEANS OF EGRESS

OCCUPANCY	MAXIMUM OCCUPANT LOAD
A, B, Ea, F, M, U	49
H-1, H-2, H-3	3
H-4, H-5, I-1, I-3, I-4, R	10
S	29

a. Day care maximum occupant load is 10.

Keywords:

classroom, exit access, one means of egress