

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
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Risk Category 3 and Assembly Occupancy

Code: 2018 NC Building Code
Section: Table 1604.5

Date: Jan. 3, 2020

Question:

Will a building that has a business occupancy load of 50 and a public assembly occupancy load of 275 be a Risk Category 3? The public assembly area is more than 50 percent of the building area.

Answer:

No. The primary public assembly occupancy is less than 300 occupants, so the building would not be classified as a Risk Category 3.

Table 1604.5 requires that a “Building and other structures whose primary occupancy is public assembly with an occupant load greater than 300” be classified as a Risk Category 3. The intent is for the assembly area of the building to be the primary occupancy and the assembly area to also have an occupancy load greater than 300. The 300 threshold is not an aggregate accumulation of the assembly areas or the different occupancies of the building.

References:

ICC 2019 Group B Public Comment Agenda, October 23-30, 2019, S44-19, 2018 NCBC Table 1604.5

Keywords:

Hazard, Seismic, Wind, ASCE7, Loads, Structural Design