

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
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**Double Occupancy Spaces Related to Plumbing Fixture Quantities**

**Code:** 2018 Plumbing Code  
**Section:** 403.6

**Date:** February 1, 2019

**Code:** 2018 Building Code  
**Section:** 2902.7

**Question:**

If a space is determined to be occupied by persons that are already accounted for in another part of the same building (examples: break rooms in an office building or cafeteria in a school) can that quantity of occupants be deducted from the building occupant load when determining plumbing fixture quantities?

**Answer:**

Yes, Section 403.6 of the NC Plumbing Code and Section 2902.7 of the NC Building Code allow the owner or his representative to request a reduction of occupant load for instances where occupants of a particular space have already been accounted for in another portion of the same building. Although Sections 403.6 and 2902.7 do not specifically denote the situation proposed in the question above, the sections are intended to be used for such situations.

Sections 403.6 and 2902.7 read as follows:

**Adjustments in occupant content.** If an owner or tenant requests, the plumbing official shall make adjustments in the occupant content established by Table 403.1 for manufacturing, workshops, loft building, foundries, storage, aircraft hangars, garages and similar establishments. The owner or occupant shall provide written data accompanied by plans that substantiates a claim that the occupant content of a particular building or tenancy will, at all times, be less than provided for in the above table. Approval of such data and accompanying claims shall not prevent the plumbing official from requiring additional facilities based on the above table, should changes be made affecting the floor plan upon which the original approval was based whether such changes be made by the original or ultimate owner or building occupant or occupants. The remainder of the facilities requirements of Section 403.2 are not affected by this paragraph.

Reduced occupant loads used for plumbing fixture quantities may not, however, apply to determining means of egress requirements.

**Keywords:**

Toilet, watercloset, water closet, urinal, lavatory, lavatories, sink, bathroom