

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal – Engineering Division
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202
919-661-5880**

Change of Occupancy

Code: 2015 Existing Building Code
Section: 407

Date: October 9, 2015

Question:

Does Table 407.1 allow a Group B occupancy to change to a Group A-2 occupancy without requiring sprinklers when sprinklers would be required for the A-2 occupancy in new construction?

Answer:

No. Table 407.1 is intended to provide guidance when the occupancy changes and the code provisions are similar regarding the specific occupancy. Any safety provisions that are more stringent for the new occupancy than what would be required for the existing occupancy should be applied to the building.

Section 407.1 states in part:

*“...the use or occupancy of existing buildings shall be permitted to be changed and the building is allowed to be occupied for purposes in other groups without conforming to **all** of the requirements of this code for the groups...”*

While the new occupancy may not be subject to **all** requirements for that occupancy for new construction, the provisions that are more stringent than what would be required for the existing occupancy govern and are required.

Keywords:

fire, suppression, nightclub, restaurant, bar, assembly