

# What is Building Code Compliance?

## Worksheet

Building codes and regulatory compliance are the legal minimum requirements - such as occupant load, egress, and structural rules - that a design must satisfy through review, permitting, and inspection to be legally occupied.

## Questions

1. A 465 m retail floor uses a 2.8 m/person factor. What is the occupant load?
  - A) 166
  - B) 465
  - C) 2.8
  - D) 93
2. Which document confirms legal occupancy after inspection?
  - A) Building permit
  - B) Certificate of Occupancy
  - C) Site plan
  - D) Zoning map
3. Prescriptive codes are best described as...
  - A) performance goals only
  - B) exact, specific requirements to follow
  - C) optional guidelines
  - D) landscaping rules
4. Occupant load factor is expressed in...
  - A) people per hour
  - B) area per person
  - C) cost per square meter
  - D) hours per person
5. An office floor of 930 m has an occupant load factor of 9.3 m/person. Find the occupant load.
6. A 200 m assembly hall uses a factor of 1.4 m/person (concentrated seating). Find the occupant load.
7. A required occupant load of 250 people needs a factor of 5 m/person. What floor area is needed?
8. Define: What is a building code?
9. Define: What is occupant load?
10. Define: Why do codes require a Certificate of Occupancy?

## Answer Key

1. A) 166 - 465 2.8 166 people.
2. B) Certificate of Occupancy - A permit allows construction to begin; the Certificate of Occupancy allows use.
3. B) exact, specific requirements to follow - Prescriptive codes specify exact methods and dimensions to comply with.
4. B) area per person - It's an area-per-person value that varies by the space's use type.
5. Occupant Load = Floor area / Factor = 930 / 9.3 = 100 people
6. Occupant Load = 200 / 1.4 142.9 Rounded down per code convention: 142 people
7. Floor area = Occupant Load Factor = 250 5 = 1,250 m
8. A set of legally adopted regulations governing the design, construction, and safety of buildings.
9. The maximum number of people a space is designed to safely hold, per code.
10. It confirms the building was inspected and complies with code before people can occupy it.

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