**R-3 IRC Occupancy**

Residential occupancies shall include buildings arranged for occupancy as Residential Care/Assisted Living Facilities including more than five but not more than 16 occupants, excluding staff. Group R-4 shall meet construction requirements for Group R-3 or shall comply with the IRC.

- **IMPORTANT:** Per the C.O.A. Building and Zoning Code, Section 22-191 – Sprinklers, Sections R313 and 2904 of the 2009 IRC have been deleted in their entirety. This amendment to the code means:
  - IRC R-3 Occupancies are **not** required to install a fire sprinkler system by the City of Aurora. See State of Colorado comment for “Residential Care/Assisted Living Facilities” below.
  - IRC R-3 occupancies are **not** required to install a fire sprinkler or fire alarm systems.
  - IRC R-4 occupancies are **not** required to install a fire sprinkler or fire alarm systems.
  - IBC R-4 occupancies **are** required to install a fire sprinkler, fire alarm and interior and exterior handicap accessible elements.

- **IMPORTANT:** The State of Colorado may require the installation of a fire sprinkler, fire alarm and interior and exterior handicap accessible elements for Group Homes and Assisted Living Facilities within IRC R-3 & 4 occupancies. It is important that the applicant contacts the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Health Facilities and Life Safety Division to obtain the States requirements (6 CCR 1011-1) for fire sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems and handicap accessibility requirements. Please contact a Life Safety representative (Sean) by calling 303-692-2898 or by visiting their website by clicking [here](#).
  - On behalf of the Colorado Health Facilities and Emergency Medical Services Division the City of Aurora will conduct all plan reviews and issuance of permits to IRC or IBC R-4 facilities.

- **IMPORTANT:** Each townhouse structure must be located within its own fee simple lot to be considered as IRC R-3. Otherwise the units will be considered as IBC R-2 Occupancies and must be fire sprinklered.

- **IMPORTANT:** Duplexes – The following restrictions apply to “duplexes” (R-3 buildings with two single family dwelling units) located on a single or multiple duplexes on one lot.
  - **ADDRESS:** Only one street address is allowed for the building, with each unit being given a unit designation. Individual units are not given individual street addresses.
  - **ELECTRICAL SERVICE:** 2011 National Electric Code, Section 230.2 allows only one electrical service lateral for the building.
  - **CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY:** Certificate of Occupancy is given to the building in its entirety after both units have been inspected and approved. Occupancy can only occur in each unit after the entire building has received its CO.
  - **SPRINKLERS:** Not required for an R-3 “duplex” building.
  - **SELL OF UNITS:** Each unit may be sold separately only if a condominium agreement is formulated and recorded with the County.
  - **CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY:** To change the occupancy classification to allow for separate addressing, separate electrical services, and sell of each unit separately (without a condominium agreement), plans would need to be submitted for review and approval to verify compliance with the code adopted at the time (i.e., 2009 IRC).
• **UNIT SEPARATION:** Use of a 2-hour fire wall between units does not permit those units or the building to be reviewed under the 2009 IRC (except for two-unit buildings which come under the IRC anyway).

• **ACCESSIBILITY:** Not required.

- See Section 202 for definition of "Story above Grade Plane" and Section 502 for definition of "Building Height."
- See Section 504.2 for permitted height and story increases in a building protected by an automatic sprinkler system (not applicable for Groups H-1, H-2, H-3, H-5 and I-2 of Types IIB, III, IV and V construction).
- See Section 505 for buildings containing mezzanines.
- Area indicated is basic allowable for buildings one story in height per Table 503. See Sections 506.4 and 506.5 for allowable areas of buildings more than one story in height.
- See Section 506.2 for allowable area increases for adequate frontage.
- In fully sprinklered buildings, see Section 506.3 for area increases (not applicable for Groups H-1, H-2 and H-3).
- See Sections 506.4 and 506.5 for allowable area limitations for basements.
- For allowable area of mixed-occupancy buildings, see Sections 506.5, 508.2.3, 508.3.2 and 508.4.2.
- Fire walls are to be constructed in accordance with Section 706. See Section 706.1.1 for party walls.
- Based on Table 602, nonbearing exterior walls having a fire separation distance of at least 30 feet do not require a fire-resistance rating.
- See Section 705.5 for fire-resistance-rated construction requirements for exterior walls when considering fire separation distance.
- For protection of projections from exterior walls, see Sections 705.2 and 1406.3. For parapet requirements, see Section 705.11.
- For exterior wall requirements for buildings on the same lot, see Section 705.3.
- In Type I buildings, the fire-resistance ratings of the primary structural frame and interior bearing walls are permitted to be reduced by 1-hour when the frame/walls support a roof only (see Note a, Table 601).
- In other than Type IV construction, interior nonbearing walls and partitions require no fire-resistance rating per Table 601. For interior nonbearing partitions in Type IV construction, see Section 602.4.6.
- For use of combustible material in Type I and II construction, see Section 603.1.
- Reductions in the minimum construction types in high-rise buildings are permitted for Type IA and IB buildings (other than Groups F-1, M and S-1) as set forth in Section 403.2.1.1.
- Fire protection of roof structural members shall not be required, including protection of roof framing and decking, where every part of the roof construction is 20 feet or more above any floor immediately below (excludes Groups F-1, H, M and S-1). Fire-retardant-treated wood members shall be permitted to be used for such unprotected members (see Note b, Table 601).
- Heavy timber shall be permitted where 1-hour or less fire-resistant construction is required (see Note c, Table 601).
- In Type I and II construction, fire-retardant-treated wood shall be permitted as part of the roof system, except in Type I buildings greater than two stories with the uppermost story less than 20 feet in height (see Section 603.1, #25.3).
- See Table 1505.1, Note c, for roof coverings of wood shakes or shingles.
- See Section 708.4 for shaft enclosure fire-resistance requirements. For exceptions to shaft enclosure provisions, see Section 708.2.
For buildings not greater than 420 feet in height, the required rating of shaft enclosures in high-rise buildings (other than exit enclosures and elevator hoistways) may be reduced to 1-hour (see Section 403.2.1.2).

A shaft enclosure is not required in fully sprinklered buildings at openings for escalators and nonrequired stairways meeting specified conditions (see Section 708.2, Exception 2).

In other than Group I-2 and I-3 occupancies, a shaft enclosure is not required for openings that comply with the seven conditions of Exception 7 to Section 708.2.

See Table 803.9 for interior wall and ceiling finish requirements. For floor finishes, see Section 804.

In buildings fewer than three stories in height, Class B interior finishes are permitted in exit enclosures of nonsprinklered buildings and Class C for sprinklered buildings. (See Table 803.9, Note a).

See Table 508.2.5 for separation of incidental accessory occupancies.

In mixed-occupancy buildings regulated as nonseparated occupancies, the most restrictive type of construction shall apply to the entire building (see Section 508.3.1).

In a mixed-occupancy building where the provisions of Section 508.4 for separated occupancies are utilized, the occupancies shall be separated in accordance with Table 508.4.

Where a fire wall also separates occupancies that are required to be separated by a fire barrier, the most restrictive requirements of each separation shall apply (see Section 706.1).

The maximum allowable area of unprotected openings in buildings (other than Group H-1, H-2 and H-3 occupancies) equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system ("UP, S") is equivalent to that allowed for protected openings. (See Table 705.8)

For the maximum area of unprotected and protect openings located in an exterior wall, use Equation 7-2 from Section 705.8.4.

See Section 705.8.1, Exception 2 for permitted unlimited unprotected openings in buildings whose exterior walls and exterior primary structural frame are not required to be fire-resistance rated.

For special conditions for structures with a Group A, B, I, M or R occupancy above a Group S-2 open parking garage, see Section 509.7.

For special conditions for structures with a Group A-3, B, M, R or S occupancy above a 3-hour horizontal assembly with Group A-3, B, M, R or S-2 parking garage below, see Section 509.2.

Where a Group S-2 parking garage is located below a Group R occupancy, see the special construction provisions of Section 509.4.

An automatic sprinkler system is required throughout all buildings containing a Group R fire area (see Section 903.2.8).

Single- or multiple-station smoke alarms shall be installed in Group R-2, R-3, R-4 and I-1 occupancies in accordance with Section 907.2.11.2.

For separation of private garages related to residential occupancies, see Section 406.1.4.

Quick-response or residential sprinklers are required in Group I-1, I-2 and R occupancies in accordance with Section 903.3.2.

A manual fire alarm and smoke alarm shall be installed in accordance with Section 907.2.10.

Group R occupancy buildings that are four stories or less in height are permitted to use an NFPA 13R sprinkler system. Covered balconies or patios of Type V construction require sprinkler protection. (See Section 903.3.1.2)

Shaft rating is generally not applicable due to permitted number of stories. Because a story height increase (see Section 504.2) or a basement (see Section 506.4 or 506.5) will change the permitted number of stories, the shaft rating may be applicable.

Unprotected and protected openings are not limited with a fire separation distance of 5 feet or greater. A 25% maximum is permitted from 3 to < 5 feet. (See Table 705.8, Notes d and f.)