



Florida Fire Marshals And Inspectors Association

Informal Interpretation

Date: 4/25/2011

NFPA Document Number: NFPA 101

Edition: 2006 with 2009 Amendments

Paragraph Reference: Table 7.3.1.2 and 12.3.5.3

If this involves an actual situation, explain briefly:

As part of the original construction, a 4-hour fire area separation wall was constructed in accordance with the Florida Building Code in order to cut the area down so fire sprinklers would not be required. The space on one side of the area separation totals 8,097sqft., hereinafter "Space A". The balance of 6,479sqft. makes up the other half, hereinafter "Space B". There has been no tenants in Space A since that time, hence Space A has never been occupied.

A new tenant wishes to lease the space for the specific purpose of video arcades otherwise considered electronic gaming. There will be no table games, restaurant or dedicated eating areas, nor bars or entertainment space. As such, the occupancy classification will be A3.

Based on the attached code trail and Life Safety Plan the following question is submitted.

Question (*should be worded so that it can be answered with either "Yes" or "No"*):

Question #1: In reference to the cited background information and sketch, is it appropriate to establish the occupant loading for the video arcade machine square foot areas using "fixed seating" pursuant to table 7.3.1.2?

Question #2: In reference to the cited background information and sketch, would it be appropriate to consider the space to be a "single multipurpose space" as permitted by 12.3.5.3?

Answer:

The answers to the questions are NO by a five to two margin against the petitioner.

Committee Answer Submitted by,

Bart Wright, Chair
Informal Fire Code Interpretation Committee