



# Florida Division of State Fire Marshal

The Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association,  
"Organization" (§633.026)

## **Informal Interpretation**

**Date:** September 15, 2014

**NFPA Document Number:** 101

**Edition:** 2009

**Paragraph Reference:** 7.3.1.3.1

**For purpose of this petition, pertinent factors do not include the name of the governmental agency or persons representing that agency. Petitioners are discouraged from making any personal assertions about an agency or agency official. If this involves an actual situation, briefly explain all of the pertinent factors.**

Actual Situation Explanation:

We would like to ask for a clarification. We have a residential building that is to provide sleeping accommodations for 36 persons. Are the minimum occupant load factors found in Table 7.3.1.2 meant to dictate the 'maximum' number of persons that can occupy a building?

For instance, we have an approximate 3,274 sq.ft. building. Based on "residential" type use, a 200 sq.ft. occupant load factor could be applied to most of the space. This gives an occupant load calculation of 17 persons. However, the fire protection, life safety, egress, etc., requirements for 36 persons occupying the building are being provided. Based on the building features provided, the owner intends to state a building occupant load of 36 persons.

We would propose that this meets the intent of section 7.3.1.3.1 and that the code does not limit the occupant load of the building to 17 persons just because the minimum occupant load factor calculation (using values in Table 7.3.1.2) yields 17 persons.

Rulings herein expressed are not the formal position of the Florida State Fire Marshal's Office

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

Is this an accurate interpretation of the intent and application of the code?

**Answer: No**

Reviewing Members:

Region 1: Bruce Teston

Region 2: John Gatlin

Region 3: James Groff

Region 4: Phil Gugliete

Region 5: Tony Apfelbeck

Region 6: Bob Salvaggio

Region 7: Bryan Parks

Committee Answer Submitted by,  
Bryan Parks, Chairman  
Informal Fire Code Interpretation Committee

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