



FACT SHEET: PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

STATE INSPECTION OF PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION IN NON-CODE AREAS

Minnesota law requires state inspection of new construction, change of use, alterations or additions to public assembly spaces designed for 200 or more people in areas where there is no local building code administration.

As of July 1, 2017, construction documents and applications must be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) for building code review and approval before construction can begin on these public assembly spaces. DLI issues permits and inspects the construction of public assembly spaces in all non-code enforced areas.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What are places of public accommodation? Publicly or privately owned assembly buildings with a concentrated occupant load of 200 or more people designed as a sports or entertainment arena, stadium, theater, community or convention hall, special event center, indoor amusement facility or water park, or indoor swimming pool.

Does the law apply to newly constructed buildings only? No, the law also applies to additions, alterations and change of use to places of public accommodation that contain spaces with an occupant load of 200 or more.

What is the law's purpose? It addresses public safety for Minnesota's non-code enforced areas in buildings where a large number of lives could be impacted due to improper construction. Although the State Building Code is the standard that applies statewide, there are areas of Minnesota that have not adopted the code; therefore, there is no code administration or enforcement in these non-code adopted areas to ensure compliance.

Does the law apply to just the room or space with 200 or more occupants, or the entire building containing the room or space with 200 or more occupants? Once the occupancy threshold of 200 or more is met, the entire building would fall under the jurisdiction of DLI in these non-code enforced areas.

How do you calculate the occupant load of a single room or space? Unless fixed seating is provided that can be counted, the occupant load is based on the intended use. For example, chairs = 1 occupant/7 sq. ft.; standing = 1 occupant/5 sq. ft.; tables and chairs = 1 occupant/15 sq. ft. Multi-use rooms and spaces must be calculated to the highest potential capacity and designed accordingly. The owner must work with a Minnesota licensed design professional to determine the number of occupants.

Does the law apply to barns that are converted to rent out for parties, weddings or receptions? Yes, if the barn contains a room or space with an occupant load of 200 or more.