

**CHAPTER 10
CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY**

**SECTION 1011.2.1
2018 Edition
IEBC INTERPRETATION 37-21
Issued: 6-2-2022
EB_18_37_21**

1011.2.1 Fire sprinkler system.

Where a change in occupancy classification occurs or where there is a *change of occupancy* within a space where there is a different fire protection system threshold requirement in Chapter 9 of the *International Building Code* that requires an automatic fire sprinkler system to be provided based on the new occupancy in accordance with Chapter 9 of the *International Building Code*, such system shall be provided throughout the area where the *change of occupancy* occurs.

REFERENCED SECTIONS:

**SECTION 202
GENERAL DEFINITIONS**

CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY. A change in the use of a building or a portion of a building that results in any of the following:

1. A change of occupancy classification.
2. A change from one group to another group within an occupancy classification.
3. Any change in use within a group for which there is a change in application of the requirements of this code.

**SECTION 1001
GENERAL**

1001.2.2 Change of occupancy classification or group.

Where the occupancy classification of a building changes, the provisions of Sections 1002 through 1011 shall apply. This includes a change of occupancy classification and a change to another group within an occupancy classification.

**SECTION 1004
FIRE PROTECTION**

1004.1 General.

Fire protection requirements of Section 1011 shall apply where a building or portions thereof undergo a *change of occupancy* classification or where there is a change of occupancy within a space where there is a different fire protection system threshold requirement in Chapter 9 of the *International Building Code*.



Q: Does Section 1011.2.1 require an existing nonsprinklered building undergoing a change of occupancy from Group R-1 to Group R-2 to be provided with an automatic sprinkler system?

A: Yes.

As indicated in Section 202, a change of occupancy includes three potential conditions: a change of occupancy classification, such as Group B to Group A-2; a change from one group to another group within an occupancy classification, such as Group R-1 to R-2; or any change in use within a group for which there is a change in application of the requirements of the code, such as a change in sprinkler system thresholds.

In general, Section 1001.2.2 requires every change of occupancy to comply with Chapter 10 when there is a change of occupancy classification or a change to another group within an occupancy classification. While Section 1004.1 is specific to the application of the fire protection requirements of Section 1011 in that Section 1011 is only applicable to a change of occupancy classification or where there is a change in the fire protection system threshold requirements in Chapter 9 of the International Building Code (IBC), a change of occupancy classification is intended to include a change in use within an occupancy group.

Therefore, even though Group R-1 and R-2 occupancies have the same sprinkler threshold requirements in Chapter 9 of the IBC, the provisions of Section 1011.2.1 would apply to a change of occupancy from one group to another group within the same occupancy classification. Consequently, a sprinkler system is required by Section 1011.2.1 for an existing building undergoing a change of occupancy from Group R-1 to R-2 or from Group R-2 to Group R-1.
