

CHAPTER 3 USE AND OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION

SECTION 302.2.1
IBC Interpretation No. 99-04
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302.2.1 Assembly areas. Accessory assembly areas are not considered separate occupancies if the floor area is equal to or less than 750 square feet (69.7 m²). Assembly areas that are accessory to Group E are not considered separate occupancies. Accessory religious educational rooms and religious auditoriums with occupant loads of less than 100 are not considered separate occupancies.

REFERENCED SECTION:

302.2 Accessory use areas. A fire barrier shall be required to separate accessory use areas classified as Group H in accordance with Section 302.3.1, and incidental use areas in accordance with Section 302.1.1. Any other accessory use area shall not be required to be separated by a fire barrier provided the accessory use area occupies an area not more than 10 percent of the area of the story in which it is located and does not exceed the tabular values in Table 503 for the allowable height or area for such use.



Q: Is an accessory assembly area that is greater than 750 square feet (Section 302.2.1), does not exceed 10 percent of the area of the story on which it is located, and does not exceed the tabular area in Table 503 (Section 302.2), required to be separated by a fire barrier from the area of the building to which it is accessory?

A: No. The provisions in Section 302.2.1 do not limit an accessory assembly use area to 750 square feet. Any use group other than Group H can be considered accessory to the primary use group if the area does not exceed 10 percent of the area of the story within which it is located, and does not exceed the tabular value provided in Table 503. An accessory use area is not required to be separated with a fire barrier from the area of the building to which it is accessory.

Section 302.2.1 of the *2003 International Building Code* stipulates that an accessory assembly area is not considered a separate occupancy if the floor area is equal to or less than 750 square feet; therefore, a specific occupancy group that contains an assembly use area equal to or less than 750 square feet is not considered a mixed occupancy building.
