

## CHAPTER 5 GENERAL BUILDING HEIGHTS AND AREAS

### SECTION 507.3 2009 Edition IBC Interpretation 02-12 Issued 7-24-2012 BU\_09\_02\_12

**507.3 Sprinklered, one story.** The area of a Group B, F, M or S building no more than one story above grade plane, or a Group A-4 building no more than one story above grade plane of other than Type V construction, shall not be limited when the building is provided with an automatic sprinkler system throughout in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 and is surrounded and adjoined by public ways or yards not less than 60 feet (18 288 mm) in width.

#### Exceptions:

1. Buildings and structures of Types I and II construction for rack storage facilities that do not have access by the public shall not be limited in height, provided that such buildings conform to the requirements of Sections 507.3, 903.3.1.1 and Chapter 23 of the International Fire Code.
2. The automatic sprinkler system shall not be required in areas occupied for indoor participant sports, such as tennis, skating, swimming and equestrian activities in occupancies in Group A-4, provided that:
  - 2.1. Exit doors directly to the outside are provided for occupants of the participant sports areas; and
  - 2.2. The building is equipped with a fire alarm system with manual fire alarm boxes installed in accordance with Section 907.

**507.3.1 Mixed occupancy buildings with Groups A-1 and A-2.** Group A-1 and A-2 occupancies of other than Type V construction shall be permitted within mixed occupancy buildings of unlimited area complying with Section 507.3, provided:

1. Group A-1 and A-2 occupancies are separated from other occupancies as required for separated occupancies in Section 508.4.4 with no reduction allowed in the fire-resistance rating of the separation based upon the installation of an automatic sprinkler system ;
2. Each area of the portions of the building used for Group A-1 or A-2 occupancies shall not exceed the maximum allowable area permitted for such occupancies in Section 503.1; and
3. All exit doors from Group A-1 and A-2 occupancies shall discharge directly to the exterior of the building.

#### REFERENCED SECTION:

**508.2 Accessory occupancies.** Accessory occupancies are those occupancies that are ancillary to the main occupancy of the building or portion thereof. Accessory occupancies shall comply with the provisions of Sections 508.2.1 through 508.2.5.3.

**508.2.1 Area limitations.** Aggregate accessory occupancies shall not occupy more than 10 percent of the building area of the story in which they are located and shall not exceed the tabular values in Table 503, without building area increases in accordance with Section 506 for such accessory occupancies.

**508.2.2 Occupancy classification.** Accessory occupancies shall be individually classified in accordance with Section 302.1. The requirements of this code shall apply to each portion of the building based on the occupancy classification of that space.

**508.2.3 Allowable building area and height.** The allowable building area and height of the building shall be based on the allowable building area and height for the main occupancy in accordance with Section 503.1. The height of each accessory occupancy shall not exceed the tabular values in Table 503, without increases in accordance with Section 504 for such accessory occupancies. The building area of the accessory occupancies shall be in accordance with Section 508.2.1.

**508.2.4 Separation of occupancies.** No separation is required between accessory occupancies and the main occupancy.

**Exceptions:**

1. Group H-2, H-3, H-4 and H-5 occupancies shall be separated from all other occupancies in accordance with Section 508.4.
2. Incidental accessory occupancies required to be separated or protected by Section 508.2.5.
3. Group I-1, R-1, R-2 and R-3 dwelling units and sleeping units shall be separated from other dwelling or sleeping units and from accessory occupancies contiguous to them in accordance with the requirements of Section 420.



**Q:** Does Section 507.3.1 permit an accessory Group A-2 occupancy complying with Section 508.2 within an unlimited area Group M building?

**A:** Yes. An accessory Group A-2 occupancy is permitted to be located within an unlimited area Group M building, without the fire-rated separation required in Section 507.3.1 between the Group A-2 occupancy and the Group M occupancy, subject to the limitations of Section 508.2.

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