



Office of the Fire Marshal Williamson County, Texas



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ASSISTED LIVING AND RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINE

The following guideline is intended to ensure compliance with the appropriate requirements for assisted living and residential care facilities. The regulations regarding assisted living and residential care facilities are found in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Part 1, Chapter 92, Subchapter A, as well as the 2018 International Fire Code (IFC), as adopted, and amended by Williamson County. This guideline is intended to be used to ensure the correct occupancy classification is used on the building plan construction plans.

Please review Williamson County Fire Marshal's Office *Commercial Building Submittal Guidelines* to see all the required information that needs to be on the building plans for the initial review. Please submit plans to www.WilcoPermits.com. The building plans will be reviewed and approved after the site plan has been permitted. Please refer to Williamson County Site (Civil) Plan Submittal Guidelines.

OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATIONS

Texas Administrative Code (TAC) 92.3 Types of Assisted Living Facilities:

Type A Facility, a resident:

- Must be physically and mentally capable of evacuation the facility without physical assistance from staff, which may include an individual who is mobile, although non-ambulatory, such as an individual who uses a wheelchair or an electric cart, and has the capacity to transfer and evacuate themselves in an emergency;
- Does not require routine maintenance during nighttime sleeping hours; and
- Must be capable of following directions under emergency conditions.

Type B Facility, a resident may:

- Require staff assistance to evacuate
- Require attendance during nighttime sleeping hours;
- Be incapable of following directions under emergency conditions; and
- Require assistance in transferring to or from a wheelchair but must not be permanently bedfast.

Williamson County 2018 IFC Amendments to Occupancy Group Types:

Institutional Group I-1. Institutional Group I-1 occupancy shall include buildings, structures, or portions thereof for more than 16 persons, excluding staff, who reside on a 24-hour basis in a supervised environment and receive custodial care. Buildings of Group I-1 shall be classified as one of the occupancy conditions indicated below. This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Alcohol and drug centers
- Assisted living facilities
- Congregate care facilities
- Convalescent facilities
- Group homes

- General residential operation
- Halfway houses
- Residential Board and Care- Large A
- Social rehabilitation facilities

Condition 1. This occupancy condition shall include buildings in which all persons receiving custodial care who, without any assistance, are capable of responding to an emergency situation to complete building evacuation.

Condition 2. This occupancy condition shall include buildings in which there are any persons receiving custodial care who require limited verbal or physical assistance while responding to an emergency situation to complete building evacuation.

Four to sixteen persons receiving care. A facility such as the above, housing at least four and not more than sixteen persons receiving such care, shall be classified as a Residential Board and Care-Small.

Institutional Group I-2. Institutional Group I-2 occupancy shall include buildings and structures used for medical care on a 24-hour basis for more than five persons who are not capable of self-preservation, and not otherwise classified as a Residential Board and Care- Small, This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Foster care facilities
- Detoxification facilities
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Psychiatric hospital
- Child and Adult day care facilities (in operation for more than 24 hours)
- Residential Board and Care-Large B

Condition 1. This occupancy condition shall include facilities that provide nursing and medical care but do not provide emergency care, surgery, obstetrics, or in-patient stabilization units for psychiatric or detoxification, including, but not limited to, nursing homes and foster care facilities.

Condition 2. This occupancy condition shall include facilities that provide nursing and medical care and could provide emergency care, surgery, obstetrics, or inpatient stabilization units for psychiatric or detoxification, including, but not limited to, hospitals. Four to sixteen persons receiving care. A facility such as the above, housing at least four and not more than sixteen persons receiving such care, shall be classified as a Residential Board and Care-Small.

Residential Board and Care Occupancy. An existing residential occupancy, converted to be used for lodging and boarding of at least four but not more than 16 residents, not related by blood or marriage to the directors, owners, or operators, for the purpose of providing personal care services. A Residential Board and Care Occupancy includes, but is not limited to:

- Alcohol and drug centers
- Assisted living facilities
- Boarding homes, housing at least four but no more than ten residents
- Community homes
- Congregate care facilities
- Convalescent facilities
- Detoxification facilities
- Emergency shelters
- Family home
- Foster family homes
- Group homes

- Halfway houses
- Hospices
- Limited care facilities
- Personal care facilities
- Residential AIDS hospices
- Residential treatment home
- Social rehabilitation facilities
- Special residential care facility

For the purposes of this Code, a facility such as the above in a residential setting, housing at least four and not more than 16 persons shall be classified as a Commercial Establishment: Residential Board and Care, Small and shall comply with the provisions of the current State adopted editions of Section 20.5 of the Uniform Fire Code, NFPA 1 Chapter 33 of NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, or applicable State and Federal requirements. If there is a conflict between the provisions of this section and the State or the purposes of this Code, a facility such as the above, housing more than 16 persons shall be classified as a Commercial Establishment: Residential Board and Care, large and shall comply with the provisions of the current edition of the Williamson County Fire Code, or applicable State and Federal requirements. If there is a conflict between the provisions of this section and the State or Federal requirements, rules, and regulations, the more stringent of the provisions shall apply.

Residential Group R-4. Omitted. Refer to Residential Board and Care.