

2009 International Building Code Section 304

304.1 Business Group B. Business Group B occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for office, professional or service- type transactions, including storage of records and accounts. Business occupancies shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Airport traffic control towers	Electronic data processing
Ambulatory health care facilities	Laboratories – testing and research
Animal hospitals, kennels and pounds	Motor vehicle showrooms
Banks	Post offices
Barber and beauty shops	Print shops
Car wash	Professional services (architects, attorneys, dentists, physicians, engineers, etc.)
Civic administration	Radio and television stations
Clinic—outpatient	Telephone exchanges
Dry cleaning and laundries: pick-up and delivery stations and self-service	Training and skill development not within a school or academic program
Educational occupancies for students above the 12th grade	

Q: Is a sleep study clinic consisting of four patient clinical study rooms considered a Group B occupancy - Clinic—outpatient or is it an Ambulatory Health Care Center, regulated under Section 422, where patients are rendered incapable of self-preservation?

A: Although the clinic clients are sleeping, the clients are not rendered incapable of self-preservation. While the clients are connected to monitors that record their sleep activity, they can be awakened by alarms or clinic staff and can easily disconnect themselves from the leads to the monitoring equipment. Even though Ambulatory Health Care Center was added in the 2009 *International Building Code (IBC)*, sleep clinics do not meet the definition of the AHCC and simply remain a Group B outpatient clinic. [3-14]

Q: For many years, police and fire departments have been classified as Group B occupancies under the various legacy codes. In looking it up I now see that they are no longer listed in the IBC. What occupancy group do they now belong to?

A: There is not a single occupancy classification for police stations or fire stations in the code. They must be classified by the various specific uses within the facility and will usually be a mixture of occupancies. Police stations will include Group B offices and may include Group A for larger assembly spaces and Group S for parking of police vehicles. If there are holding cells, Group I-3 may be involved. Fire stations often include sleeping accommodations for firefighters, which need to be considered a Group R. They can be treated as separated or nonseparated occupancies under Section 508 Mixed Use and Occupancy. [3-15]