



**City of Milpitas
Building and Safety Department**

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**GROUP H-5 OCCUPANCY IN
UNLIMITED AREA BUILDINGS**

Policy:

BDP-BLG23

Effective Date:

7/1/2008

Proposed by:

TUCC

Last Reviewed/
Revised:

5/10/17

Revised by:

BYC

Approved By: Gary King
Acting Chief Building Official

CODE REFERENCE (S):

2016 CBC Sections 507.8, 507.4, 507.5, 508.2, 508.2.2 and 508.2.3.

ISSUE:

10% of the area of Group H-2, H-3 and H-4 occupancies is permitted in unlimited area Group F and S occupancy buildings, but the code is silent with Group H-5 or Group B buildings. This created a problem particular for existing buildings. The hazardous level of Group H-5 is not higher than Group H-2 or H-3 occupancies. Some jurisdictions have allowed H occupancy as accessory use in unlimited area buildings including “B” occupancy.

POLICY:

Although Section 507.8 does not mention H-5 for the allowable 10% area in unlimited area buildings, there is nothing in the code that says that Group H-5 is not allowed or Groups H-2, H-3, H-4 and H-5 are not allowed in unlimited “B” occupancy buildings. Section 508.2.1 clearly allows 10% accessory use for all occupancies provided the occupancy separation and other code requirements are met. Use Section 508.2.3 to allow 10 % accessory use for Groups H-2, H-3, H-4 and H-5 occupancies in unlimited area buildings containing Groups B, F or S occupancies.