

Under Governor Jay Inslee's Safe Start reopening plan King County has entered a modified Phase 1 as of June 5, 2020. Questions have arisen regarding building occupant loads regarding the, "Limits and Requirements" during this modified Phase 1 requirements.

Safe Start King County

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/constantine/news/release/2020/June/05-phase-covid.aspx>

Phase 2 guidance

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/COVID19Phase2FitnessGuidelines.pdf>

Definition of design occupant

The design occupant load is the number of people intended to occupy a building at any one time based on use of building. Generally, occupant loads are calculated based on the square footage divided by the occupant load factor.

Occupancy Load

The following is a simplified general explanation / calculation of occupancy loads for the general public. For a detailed explanation of occupancy loads it is recommended that you go to <https://up.codes/viewer/washington/ibc-2015/chapter/10/means-of-egress#1004.1> and read "ALL" of section 1004, Design Occupant Load.

Restaurant Seating Area

For areas having **fixed seats** the occupant load shall be determined by the number of fixed seats installed therein. [**Actual count**]

The occupant load for areas in which fixed seating is not installed, such as waiting spaces, shall be determined by dividing the occupant load factor (below) by the area square footage. Then add the number of fixed seats.

- Standing space 5 sq.ft. per person
- Unconcentrated (tables and chairs) 15 sq.ft. per person

Example of Standing space:

$12\text{ ft.} \times 14\text{ ft. (Lobby)} = 168\text{ sq ft} \div 5\text{ sq.ft. per person} = (33.6) \text{ 34 occupant load}$

-For areas having fixed seating without dividing arms, the occupant load shall be not less than the number of seats based on one person for each **18 inches of seating length**.

Example booth seating:

$8\text{ft pew type bench sitting } 84\text{in} \div 18\text{in per person} = (4.6) \text{ 5 occupants}$

-The occupant load of seating booths shall be based on one person for each **24 inches of booth seat length** measured at the backrest of the seating booth.

Example booth seating:

$6\text{ft booth } 72\text{in} \div 24\text{in per person} = 3 \text{ occupants}$

Mercantile (Stores/retail)

- Areas on other floors (2nd floor and up) 60 sq.ft. per person

Example Sales Floor:

$120\text{ sq.ft.} \times 140\text{ sq.ft. (sales floor)} = 16,800\text{ sq.ft.} \div 60\text{ sq.ft. per person} = 280 \text{ occupants}$

- Basement and grade floor (1st floor) areas 30 sq.ft. per person
- Storage, stock, shipping areas 300 sq.ft. per person

Business (offices)

Example: 100 sq.ft. per person

$52\text{ ft.} \times 35\text{ ft. (office)} = 1,820\text{ sq.ft.} \div 100\text{ sq.ft. per person} = (18.2) \text{ 19 occupants}$