



BUILDING STANDARDS ADVISORY

Subject Arenas used for Trade Shows	Approved by <i>Margaret Kuzylek</i>	Advisory Number A-4 1 of 1
	Effective Date September 1996	NBC 1995 References(s) 3.1.2.3.

Compliance with *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act* (the UBAS Act) and regulations is addressed in this advisory. NBC 1995 means the National Building Code of Canada 1995 as adopted by regulations under the UBAS Act. Words in italics, other than Act titles, are defined in the NBC 1995.

The NBC 1995 recognizes that arena type *buildings* (*assembly occupancy*) are sometimes used for trade shows or similar exhibition purposes (*mercantile occupancy*).

3.1.2.3. Arena Type Buildings.

- 1) An arena type *building* intended for occasional use for trade shows and similar exhibition purposes shall be classified as Group A, Division 3 *occupancy*. (See Appendix A.)
- 2) If the *building area* of an arena type *building* referred to in Sentence (1) is more than 1 500 m², the *building* shall be sprinklered throughout.

A-3.1.2.3.(1) Arena Regulation. The use of an arena is regulated in the National Fire Code of Canada 1995.

Since these provisions rely on an evaluation of what was intended by “occasional,” the following categories may be used as guidelines:

- When no more than two trade shows or similar exhibitions are held in an arena type *building* in one calendar year, the *building* shall be designed as a Group A, Division 3 (assembly) *occupancy* that complies with one of Articles 3.2.2.29. to 3.2.2.33. of the NBC 1995. Only sprinklers required by Sentence 3.1.2.3.(2) may be waived.
- When no more than nine trade shows or similar exhibitions are held in an arena type *building* in one calendar year, the *building* shall be designed as a Group A, Division 3 (assembly) *occupancy* that complies with one of Articles 3.2.2.29. to 3.2.2.33. of the NBC 1995 and shall be protected by an automatic sprinkler system when the *building area* is more than 1 500 m².
- When ten or more trade shows or similar exhibitions are held in an arena type *building* in one calendar year, the *building* shall be designed as a Group E (mercantile) *occupancy* that complies with one of Articles 3.2.2.57., 3.2.2.58., 3.2.2.60., 3.2.2.61., or 3.2.2.62. of the NBC 1995.

The appendix of the National Fire Code of Canada 1995 contains the following explanatory comment:

A-2.1.2.2.(1) Arena type buildings are often used for events such as community dances, rallies and trade shows. These events may increase the occupant and fuel loads beyond that for which the space was designed. To ensure safety during such events, additional egress facilities may be required to compensate for the additional occupant load and, in some cases, additional fire suppression measures may be required to compensate for the increased fuel load.

Contact the Saskatchewan Office of the Fire Commissioner for advice about application of the National Fire Code of Canada.