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SPECIAL REPORT - SELECTED CHANGES TO THE 2006 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE

THIS MONTH I want to skip the “Building Codes 101” articles and present highlights to the changes in the *2006 International Building Code*. We will continue next month with “Means of Egress”.

USE GROUPS

B (Business) adds the use of “training and skill development not within a school or academic program” such as trade schools. **H** (high hazard) now has a link between Sections 414 (Hazardous Materials) and 415 (**H-1** thru **H-5**). **R** now allows congregate living facilities with 16 or few occupants to be **R-3**; otherwise it is **R-2**. The criteria of 16 people is specific to congregate living facilities and would not apply to other uses listed in use group **R-2**.

- Add a definition for “congregate living facilities” to coordinate with use group **R**. The term “transient” is defined to differentiate between **R-1** and **R-2** occupancies.

SPECIAL USES

New section regulates children’s playground structures in malls when they are greater than 10 ft. in height and 150 ft. in area. In high-rise buildings, the reduction of construction from 1A to 1B is limited to structures not over 420 ft. in height. Also, shaft enclosures in high-rise only permits a reduction of 1-hour for sprinklered shafts in buildings less than 420 ft. in height.

- Sections for smoke control (404.0) have been deleted with a general change to atrium requirements. No more prescribed volume of areas open to atrium, but instead requires and overall smoke control design strategy.
- Requires doors between private garages and dwelling units to be self-closing (406.1.4)
- Provide another option for ventilation of open parking garages to permit unlimited areas (408.3.6).

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