

NATURAL GAS REGULATING AND METERING STATION BUILDINGS

PURPOSE

This STANDATA is developed to provide an alternative solution for occupancy classification of high hazard industrial occupancies that house natural gas and metering equipment.

DISCUSSION

High Hazard Industrial Occupancy (Group F, Division 1) is defined by the Alberta Building Code 2014 (ABC 2014) as an industrial occupancy containing sufficient quantities of highly combustible and flammable or explosive materials which, because of their inherent characteristics, constitute a special fire hazard.

Buildings containing natural gas regulating and metering equipment are small in size and are designed to provide protection of the equipment. These buildings are not accessible by the public and are only intended for occupancy by employees for maintenance. Such features allow for consideration by a safety codes officer of accepting Group F, Division 2 as an alternative occupancy classification.

CODE REFERENCES

Sentence 6.2.2.5.(1) states:

6.2.2.5. Air Contaminants

1) Air contaminants released within *buildings* shall be removed insofar as possible at their points of origin and shall not be permitted to accumulate in concentrations greater than permitted in the Industrial Ventilation Manual published by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists.

Division A, 1.4.1.2. Defined Terms states:

High-hazard industrial occupancy (Group F, Division 1) means an *industrial occupancy* containing sufficient quantities of highly *combustible* and flammable or explosive materials which, because of their inherent characteristics, constitute a special fire hazard.

Medium-hazard industrial occupancy (Group F, Division 2) means an *industrial occupancy* in which the *combustible* content is more than 50 kg/m² or 1 200 MJ/m² of *floor area* and not classified as a *high-hazard industrial occupancy*.

VARIANCE

This variance provides approximately equivalent or greater safety performance with respect to persons and property as that provided for by the Safety Codes Act and the ABC 2014.

Unless stated otherwise, all Code references in this STANDATA are to Division B of the Alberta Building Code 2014.

Issue of this STANDATA is authorized by
the Provincial Building Administrator

[Original Signed]
Paul Chang

Alberta
Government



Buildings used to house natural gas regulating and metering equipment may be classified as Group F, Division 2 occupancy provided:

1. The building does not exceed 55 m² in building area or one storey in building height,
2. The building is considered as a low human occupancy building, and
3. Sufficient ventilation is available as per Sentence 6.2.2.5.(1) so that any small leaks from fittings will not accumulate and there is a constant movement of air.

This VARIANCE is applicable throughout the province of Alberta.

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