

OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION FOR CURLING ARENAS

DISCUSSION

The Alberta Building Code 1997 considers the rink portion of a curling arena as a Group A, Division 3 occupancy. Most curling arenas also contain lounge and/or banquet facilities which, when large enough to be used for assembly functions on their own, must be considered as Group A, Division 2 occupancies.

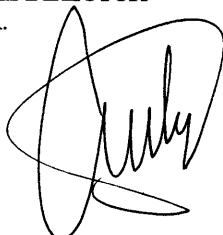
Efficient design of a curling arena usually means using the lounge/banquet area as the viewing area as well. Since a Group A, Division 2 major occupancy is required to be separated from a Group A, Division 3 major occupancy by a fire separation having a fire-resistance rating of at least 1 hr, the amount of glazing and the type of glazing for the viewing is restricted to the area and types of glazing described in Articles 3.1.8.6. and 3.1.8.14.

Since the occupant load of the rink portion of the arena is limited, the fire load of the rink is low, and since the function of the viewing area is closely linked to the function of the rink when the curling portion of the building is being used, the following RULING is given.

RULING

1. The occupancy classification of the rink portion of a curling arena may be considered as Group A, Division 2 occupancy.
2. Where a curling rink with a viewing area may be considered one storey in building height, the separation between the rink and the viewing area need not be a fire separation, and therefore, the glazing between the two is not restricted.

ISSUE OF THIS RULING IS AUTHORIZED UNDER
ARTICLE 2.5.1.4. OF THE ALBERTA BUILDING
CODE 1997 BY THE DIRECTOR/
ADMINISTRATOR.



C. M. TYE



SAFETY CODES COUNCIL



LABOUR



3. Where a curling rink with a viewing area is to be considered two storeys in building height, either the upper level or the lower level may be considered as being in the same fire compartment as the rink. Glazing is not restricted in the separation between spaces in the same fire compartment. However, the other floor area is to be separated from the remainder of the building in conformance with Subsection 3.2.2. and glazing in the separation is to be limited in conformance with Articles 3.1.8.6. and 3.1.8.14.

This RULING applies throughout the Province of Alberta.

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