

## **Occupant Load**

The occupant load of a building is the total number of persons that might occupy a building or portion thereof. Occupant load requirements from the Life Safety Code vary based upon the type of occupancy. The Georgia Institute of Technology has four basic types of occupancies, assembly, business, laboratories and residential. Methods for determining occupancy in each are outlined below. The information here is listed as a guide, you really need to talk with us at 404-894-2990 before applying any of these numbers to specific projects.

### **Assembly -**

Concentrated use without fixed seating such as auditoriums or dance floors is calculated at one person per 7 sq ft of net floor space.

Less concentrated areas such as conference rooms, dining rooms, exhibit rooms and gymnasiums are calculated at one person per 15 sq ft of net floor space.

Fixed seating is determined by the number of fixed seats installed. Aisle space should not be used to increase the occupant load.

Bleachers, pews and similar bench-type seating are calculated at one person per 18 linear inches.

Library stack areas are calculated at one person per 100 sq ft of gross floor area. Reading rooms are one person per 50 sq ft of net floor area.

### **Business Occupancies -**

Occupant load is determined by one person per 100 sq. ft. of gross floor area.

### **Laboratory Occupancies -**

Laboratory occupant loads are calculated by one person per 100 sq. ft. of gross floor area.

### **Residential Occupancies-**

Occupant load is determined by one person per 200 sq. ft. of gross floor area.

**Occupant load requirements for all types of occupancies can be increased by adding additional exits and increasing aisle and other exit width.**