CHAPTER 3

OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION AND USE

SECTION 301
SCOPE

14B-3-301 The provisions of Section 301 of IBC are adopted by reference with the following modification:
Added Coun. J. 4-10-19, p. 100029.

301.1 General. The provisions of this chapter shall control the classification of all buildings as to occupancy and use.

SECTION 302
OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION AND USE DESIGNATION

14B-3-302 The provisions of Section 302 of IBC are adopted by reference with the following modifications:
Added Coun. J. 4-10-19, p. 100029.

302.1 Occupancy classification. Occupancy classification is the formal designation of the primary purpose of the building, structure or portion thereof. Buildings shall be classified into one or more of the occupancy groups listed in this section based on the nature of the hazards and risks to occupants generally associated with the intended purpose of the building. Structures that are not buildings shall be classified as Group U. An area, room or space that is intended to be occupied at different times for different purposes shall comply with all applicable requirements associated with each potential purpose. Buildings containing multiple occupancy groups shall comply with Section 508. Where a building is proposed for a purpose that is not specifically listed in this section, such building shall be classified in the occupancy it most nearly resembles based on the fire safety and relative hazard as approved by the building official.

2. Business (see Section 304): Group B.
3. Educational (see Section 305): Groups E-1 and E-2.
7. Mercantile (see Section 309): Group M.
8. Residential (see Section 310): Groups R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4 and R-5.
10. Utility and Miscellaneous (see Section 312): Group U.

302.2 Use designation. Occupancy groups contain subordinate uses having similar hazards and risks to building occupants. Uses include, but are not limited to, those functional designations listed within the occupancy group descriptions in Section 302.1. Certain uses require specific limitations and controls in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 4 and elsewhere in this code.

SECTION 303
ASSEMBLY GROUP A

14B-3-303 The provisions of Section 303 of IBC are adopted by reference with the following modifications:
Added Coun. J. 4-10-19, p. 100029.

303.1 Assembly Group A. Assembly Group A occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for the gathering of persons for purposes such as civic, social or religious functions; recreation, food or drink consumption or awaiting transportation.

303.1.1 Small buildings and tenant spaces. A building or tenant space used for assembly purposes with an occupant load of less than 50 persons shall be classified as a Group B occupancy.

303.1.2 Small assembly spaces. The following rooms and spaces shall not be classified as Assembly occupancies:
1. A room or space used for assembly purposes with an occupant load of less than 50 persons and accessory to another occupancy shall be classified as a Group B occupancy or as part of that occupancy.
2. A room or space used for assembly purposes that is less than 750 square feet (70 m²) in area and accessory to another occupancy shall be classified as a Group B occupancy or as part of that occupancy.

303.1.3 Associated with Group E occupancies. A room or space used for assembly purposes that is associated with a Group E occupancy is not considered a separate occupancy.

303.2 Assembly Group A-1. Group A-1 occupancy includes assembly uses, usually with fixed seating, intended for the production and viewing of the performing arts or motion pictures including, but not limited to:
- Motion picture theaters
- Symphony and concert halls
- Television and radio studios admitting an audience
- Theaters

303.3 Assembly Group A-2. Group A-2 occupancy includes assembly uses intended for food and/or drink consumption including, but not limited to:
- Banquet halls
- Casinos (gaming areas)
OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION AND USE

Dance halls (including food or drink consumption)
Nightclubs
Restaurants, cafeterias and similar dining facilities
   (including associated commercial kitchens)
Taverns and bars

303.4 Assembly Group A-3. Group A-3 occupancy includes assembly uses intended for worship, recreation or amusement and other assembly uses not classified elsewhere in Group A including, but not limited to:

Amusement arcades
Art galleries
Bowling alleys
Community halls
Courtrooms
Dance halls (not including food or drink consumption)
Exhibition halls
Funeral parlors
Greenhouses for the conservation and exhibition of plants that provide public access.
Gymnasiums (without spectator seating)
Indoor swimming pools (without spectator seating)
Indoor sports and fitness facilities (without spectator seating)
Lecture halls
Libraries
Museums
Places of religious worship
Pool and billiard parlors
Trading floors
Waiting areas in transportation terminals

303.5 Assembly Group A-4. Group A-4 occupancy includes assembly uses intended for viewing of indoor sporting events and activities with spectator seating including, but not limited to:

Arenas
Skating rinks
Swimming pools
Tennis courts

303.6 Assembly Group A-5. Group A-5 occupancy includes assembly uses intended for participation in or viewing outdoor activities including, but not limited to:

Amusement park structures
Bleachers
Grandstands
Stadiums

Business occupancies shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Airport traffic control towers
Ambulatory care facilities
Animal hospitals, kennels and pounds
Banks
Barber and beauty shops
Car wash
Civic administration
Clinic, outpatient
Dry cleaning and laundries: pick-up and delivery stations and self-service
Educational occupancies for students above the 12th grade
Electronic data processing (with routine human occupancy)
Food processing establishments and commercial kitchens not associated with restaurants, cafeterias and similar dining facilities not more than 2,500 square feet (232 m²) in area.
Laboratories: testing and research
Motor vehicle showrooms
Post offices
Print shops
Professional services (architects, attorneys, dentists, physicians, engineers, etc.)
Radio and television stations
Telephone exchanges
Training and skill development not in a school or academic program (this shall include, but not be limited to, tutoring centers, martial arts studios, gymnastics and similar uses regardless of the ages served, and where not classified as a Group A occupancy)

304.2 Telecommunications equipment areas. A telecommunications equipment area that is associated with an occupancy in the same building is not considered a separate occupancy.

SECTION 305
EDUCATIONAL GROUP E

305.1 Educational Group E. Educational Group E occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for educational purposes through the 12th grade or to provide day care services to children.

305.2 Educational Group E-1. Educational Group E-1 occupancy includes the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, to educate six or more children, three years of age or older, at any one time, through the 12th grade.

Exception: Classrooms and auditoriums, which are accessory to an assembly occupancy and have occupant loads of less than 100 per room or space, shall be classified as Group A-3 occupancies.

305.3 Educational Group E-2. Educational Group E-2 occupancy includes the use of a building or structure, or a portion...
thereof, for providing supervision, or personal care services for fewer than 24 hours per day to more than three children.

Exceptions:

1. Rooms and spaces accessory to an assembly occupancy providing such day care during events shall be classified as part of the primary occupancy.

2. A facility having three or fewer children receiving such day care shall be classified as part of the primary occupancy.

3. A facility within a dwelling unit occupied as a residence by the operator and having eight or fewer children receiving such day care shall be classified as a Group R-2, R-3 or R-5 occupancy.

4. A facility where any children under two years of age occupy a level other than the level of exit discharge shall be classified as a Group I-4 occupancy.

5. A facility with more than 30 children under two years of age shall be classified as a Group I-4 occupancy.

SECTION 306
FACTORY GROUP F

306.1 Factory Industrial Group F. Factory Industrial Group F occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for assembling, disassembling, fabricating, finishing, manufacturing, packaging, repair or processing operations that are not classified as a Group H hazardous or Group S storage occupancy.

306.2 Moderate-hazard factory industrial, Group F-1. Factory industrial uses that are not classified as Factory Industrial F-2 Low Hazard shall be classified as F-1 Moderate Hazard and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Aircraft (manufacturing, not to include repair)
- Appliances
- Athletic equipment
- Automobiles and other motor vehicles
- Bakeries
- Beverages: over 16-percent alcohol content
- Bicycles
- Boats
- Brooms or brushes
- Business machines
- Cameras and photo equipment
- Canvas or similar fabric
- Carpets and rugs (includes cleaning)
- Clothing
- Construction and agricultural machinery
- Disinfectants
- Dry cleaning and dyeing
- Electric generation plants
- Electronics
- Engines (including rebuilding)
- Food processing establishments and commercial kitchens not associated with restaurants, cafeterias and similar dining facilities more than 2,500 square feet (232 m²) in area.
- Furniture
- Hemp products
- Jute products
- Launderies (other than pick-up and delivery stations and self-service)
- Leather products
- Machinery
- Metals
- Millwork (sash and door)
- Motion pictures and television filming (without spectators)
- Musical instruments
- Optical goods
- Paper mills or products
- Photographic film
- Plastic products
- Printing or publishing
- Recreational vehicles
- Refuse incineration
- Shoes
- Soaps and detergents
- Textiles
- Tire storage [under 10,000 cubic feet (283 m³)]
- Tobacco
- Trailers
- Upholstering
- Wood; distillation
- Woodworking (cabinet)

306.3 Low-hazard factory industrial, Group F-2. Factory industrial uses that involve the fabrication or manufacturing of noncombustible materials that during finishing, packing or processing do not involve a significant fire hazard may only be classified as F-2 occupancies with the written approval of the fire code official and may include the following:

- Beverages: up to and including 16-percent alcohol content
- Brick and masonry
- Ceramic products
- Chilled water plants
- Foundries
- Glass products
- Gypsum
- Ice
- Water pumping stations

Editor's Note—Coun. J. 4-10-19, p. 100029, Art. III directs replacement of the first sentence of Section 306.2 of the IBC, however the text appears to refer to the first sentence of Section 306.3. At the discretion of the editor, the revision has been made to that section. Future legislation will correct this provision if needed.
Editor’s Note—An interim Chicago Fire Prevention Code was adopted on April 10, 2019, as part of a multi-phase code modernization effort. At the time of publication, a full Chicago Fire Prevention Code has not been adopted. For questions about code requirements applicable to hazardous occupancies under the interim Chicago Fire Prevention Code, consult the Chicago Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau.

307.1 High-hazard Group H. High-hazard Group H occupancies include, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, that involves the manufacturing, processing, generation or storage of materials that constitute a physical or health hazard in quantities in excess of those allowed in control areas complying with Section 414, based on the maximum allowable quantity limits for control areas set forth in Tables 307.1(1) and 307.1(2). Hazardous occupancies are classified in Groups H-1, H-2, H-3, H-4 and H-5 and shall be in accordance with this section, the requirements of Section 415 and the Chicago Fire Prevention Code. Hazardous materials stored, or used on top of roofs or canopies, shall be classified as outdoor storage or use and shall comply with the Chicago Fire Prevention Code.

307.1.1 Uses other than Group H. An occupancy that stores, uses or handles hazardous materials as described in one or more of the following items shall not be classified as Group H, but shall be classified as the occupancy that it most nearly resembles.

1. Buildings and structures occupied for the application of flammable finishes, provided that such buildings or areas conform to the requirements of Section 416 and the Chicago Fire Prevention Code.

2. Wholesale and retail sales and storage of flammable and combustible liquids in mercantile occupancies conforming to the Chicago Fire Prevention Code.

3. Closed piping system containing flammable or combustible liquids or gases utilized for the operation of machinery or equipment.

4. Cleaning establishments that utilize combustible liquid solvents having a flash point of 140°F (60°C) or higher in closed systems employing equipment listed by an approved testing agency, provided that this occupancy is separated from all other areas of the building by 1-hour fire barriers.

### TABLE 307.1(1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATERIAL</th>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>GROUP WHEN THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE QUANTITY IS EXCEEDED</th>
<th>STORAGE(^a)</th>
<th>USE-CLOSED SYSTEMS(^a)</th>
<th>USE-OPEN SYSTEMS(^a)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Solid pounds (cubic feet)</td>
<td>Liquid gallons (pounds)</td>
<td>Gas cubic feet at NTP</td>
<td>Solid pounds (cubic feet)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(cubic feet)</td>
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<td>H-1</td>
<td>H-1</td>
<td>H-1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flammable gas</td>
<td>Gasous Liquefied</td>
<td>H-2</td>
<td>H-2</td>
<td>H-2</td>
<td>H-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flammable liquid(^d)</td>
<td>IA</td>
<td>H-1 or IC</td>
<td>H-2 or H-3</td>
<td>H-2 or H-3</td>
<td>H-2 or H-3</td>
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<td>Flammable liquid, combination (IA, IB, IC)</td>
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<td>H-2 or H-3</td>
<td>H-2 or H-3</td>
<td>H-2 or H-3</td>
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</table>

(continued)
### OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION AND USE

**TABLE 307.1(1)—continued**

**MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE QUANTITY PER CONTROL AREA OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS POSING A PHYSICAL HAZARD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATERIAL</th>
<th>GROUP WHEN THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE QUANTITY IS EXCEEDED</th>
<th>STORAGE&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>USE-CLOSED SYSTEMS&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>USE-OPEN SYSTEMS&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Solid pounds (cubic feet)</td>
<td>Liquid pounds (gallons)</td>
<td>Gas cubic feet at NTP</td>
<td>Solid pounds (cubic feet)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flammable solid</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>125&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>125&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inert gas</td>
<td>Gaseous Liquefied</td>
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<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Organic peroxide</strong></td>
<td>H-1</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>5&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H-2</td>
<td>150&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>50&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>(150)&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H-3</td>
<td>125&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>(125)&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>NA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>V</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<td>Oxidizer</td>
<td>H-1</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>1&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>H-2 or H-3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>H-3</td>
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<td>4,000&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Oxidizing gas</td>
<td>Gaseous Liquefied</td>
<td>1,500&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>1,500&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>H-3</td>
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<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H-1 (150)&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<td>Pyrophoric</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>(4)&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>50&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unstable (reactive)</td>
<td>H-1</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
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<td>H-1 or H-2</td>
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<td>Water reactive</td>
<td>H-2</td>
<td>50&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>NA</td>
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<td>(50)&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For SI: 1 cubic foot = 0.028 m<sup>3</sup>, 1 pound = 0.454 kg, 1 gallon = 3.785 L.

NL = Not Limited; NA = Not Applicable; UD = Unclassified Detonable.

a. For use of control areas, see Section 414.2.
b. The aggregate quantity in use and storage shall not exceed the quantity listed for storage.
c. The quantities of alcoholic beverages in retail and wholesale sales occupancies shall be limited provided the liquids are packaged in individual containers not exceeding 1.3 gallons. In retail and wholesale sales occupancies, the quantities of medicines, foodstuffs or consumer products, and cosmetics containing not more than 50 percent by volume of water-miscible liquids with the remainder of the solutions not being flammable, shall not be limited, provided that such materials are packaged in individual containers not exceeding 1.3 gallons.
d. Maximum allowable quantities shall be increased 100 percent in buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1. Where Note e also applies, the increase for both notes shall be applied accumulatively.
e. Maximum allowable quantities shall be increased 100 percent when stored in storage cabinets, day boxes, gas cabinets, gas rooms or exhausted enclosures or in listed safety cans in accordance with the Chicago Fire Prevention Code. Where Note d also applies, the increase for both notes shall be applied accumulatively.
f. Quantities shall not be limited in a building equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.
g. Allowed only in buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.
h. Containing not more than the maximum allowable quantity per control area of Class IA, IB or IC flammable liquids.
i. The maximum allowable quantity shall not apply to fuel oil storage complying with the Chicago Fire Prevention Code.
j. Quantities in parentheses indicate quantity units in parentheses at the head of each column.
k. A maximum quantity of 220 pounds of solid or 22 gallons of liquid Class 5 oxidizers is allowed when such materials are necessary for maintenance purposes, operation or sanitation of equipment when the storage containers and the manner of storage are approved.
l. Net weight of the pyrotechnic composition of the fireworks. Where the net weight of the pyrotechnic composition of the fireworks is not known, 25 percent of the gross weight of the fireworks, including packaging, shall be used.
m. For gallons of liquids, divide the amount in pounds by 10 in accordance with the Chicago Fire Prevention Code.
n. For storage and display quantities in Group M and storage quantities in Group S occupancies complying with Section 414.2.5, see Tables 414.2.5(1) and 414.2.5(2).
o. Densely packed baled cotton that complies with the packing requirements of ISO 8115 shall not be included in this material class.
p. The following shall not be included in determining the maximum allowable quantities:

1. Liquid or gaseous fuel in fuel tanks on vehicles.
2. Liquid or gaseous fuel in fuel tanks on motorized equipment operated in accordance with the Chicago Fire Prevention Code.
4. Liquid fuels in piping systems and fixed appliances regulated by the Chicago Mechanical Code.
5. Alcohol-based hand rubs classified as Class I or II liquids in dispensers that are installed in accordance with the Chicago Fire Prevention Code. The location of the alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) dispensers shall be provided in the construction documents.

q. Where manufactured, generated or used in such a manner that the concentration and conditions create a fire or explosion hazard based on information prepared in accordance with Section 414.1.3.

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For 2019 Chicago Building Code, see the [official source](https://www.chicagofire.org/Standards/Codes) for the most up-to-date information.
constructed in accordance with Section 707 or 1-hour horizontal assemblies constructed in accordance with Section 711, or both.
5. Cleaning establishments that utilize a liquid solvent having a flash point at or above 200°F (93°C).
7. Refrigeration systems.
8. The storage or utilization of materials for agricultural purposes on the premises.
9. Stationary storage battery systems installed in accordance with the Chicago Fire Prevention Code.
10. Corrosive personal or household products in their original packaging used in retail display.
11. Commonly used corrosive building materials.
12. Buildings and structures occupied for aerosol product storage shall be classified as Group S-1, provided that such buildings conform to the requirements of the Chicago Fire Prevention Code.
13. Display and storage of nonflammable solid and nonflammable or noncombustible liquid hazardous materials in quantities not exceeding the maximum allowable quantity per control area in Group M or S occupancies complying with Section 414.2.5.
14. The storage of black powder, smokeless propellant and small arms primers in Groups M and R-3 and special industrial explosive devices in Groups B, F, M and S, provided such storage conforms to the quantity limits and requirements prescribed in the Chicago Fire Prevention Code.
15. Stationary fuel cell power systems installed in accordance with the Chicago Fire Prevention Code.
16. Capacitor energy storage systems in accordance with the Chicago Fire Prevention Code.
17. Group B higher education laboratory occupancies complying with Section 428 and the Chicago Fire Prevention Code.

**307.2 Hazardous materials.** Hazardous materials in any quantity shall conform to the requirements of this code, including Section 414, and the Chicago Fire Prevention Code.

**307.3 High-hazard Group H-1.** Buildings and structures containing materials that pose a detonation hazard shall be classified as Group H-1. Such materials shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Detonable pyrophoric materials
- Explosives:
  - Division 1.1
  - Division 1.2
  - Division 1.3
  - Division 1.4
  - Division 1.5
  - Division 1.6
- Organic peroxides, unclassified detonable
- Oxidizers, Class 4
- Unstable (reactive) materials, Class 3 detonable and Class 4