

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO**  
**Development Services Department**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** DSD Associates

**FROM:** Florencio Peña, Director and Building Official

**DATE:** March 31, 2006

**FILE:** Code Interpretation Manual

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**INTERPRETATION NUMBER:** CI2006-016

**TITLE:** Occupant Load Rounding

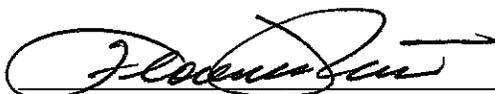
**CODE EDITION:** 2003 International Building Code (IBC) as adopted by COSA

**SECTION:** 1004.1.2

**PURPOSE:** To determine whether or not it is required to round up the occupant load calculated in accordance with Section 1004.1.2 when the calculation result is not a whole number.

**QUESTION:** When computing the occupant load for an area in accordance with IBC Section 1004.1.2, is it required to round up the calculated occupant load to the next whole number when the computed result is a decimal? For example, the occupant load for a 945 sq.ft. classroom would be calculated as 47.25 (i.e., 945 sq.ft. ÷ 20 sq.ft. per occupant). Is it required to round this up to 48 for design purposes?

**ANSWER:** Yes. When the calculated number is not a whole number, it is required to round up to the next whole number for determination of the occupant load of a space. Therefore, the occupant load for the classroom example above is 48 - not 47 or 47.25. This is consistent with an informal code opinion received from the International Code Council as well as the example provided in the 2003 IBC Commentary - Volume I - Figure 1004.1.2.



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