



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: DSD Associates

FROM: Roderick J. Sanchez, Director and Building Official

DATE: October 22, 2015

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: CI2015-005

TITLE: Stage vs. Platform Designation for Elementary and Middle Schools

CODE EDITION: 2015 International Building Code (IBC) as amended by COSA

SECTION: 410.2

PURPOSE: As a customer service initiative, the Development Services Department (DSD) created this **revised** interpretation to update Code Interpretation (CI2006-010) on the Stage vs. Platform Designation for Elementary and Middle Schools. This interpretation has been updated to incorporate the department's new format and new adopted codes. This code interpretation is to clarify whether the installation of any "hanging curtains" in an elementary or middle school platform requires classification of this building element as a stage.

QUESTION 1: Does the installation of a single front curtain that opens sideways (rather than up and down) on an elementary or middle school classroom platform require this building element to be defined and protected as a stage in accordance with the definitions in 2015 IBC Section 410.2.

ANSWER 1: While the definition of a platform states that there are to be no overhead hanging curtains, the City does not consider the installation of a single front curtain that opens sideways (rather than up and down) on a platform in an elementary or middle school to meet the intent of the stage definition or necessitate the required construction and/or protection requirements of a stage. Therefore, this building element would still be defined as a platform and not a stage.

QUESTION 2: What if, along with the front curtain described in Q1 above, an additional curtain (e.g., hanging backdrop) is added at the rear of the platform?

ANSWER 2: The addition of a second curtain does cause this building element to be defined as a stage rather than a platform. The stage would have to meet all applicable building and fire code requirements for a stage.

Note that the City will accept a modification/alternative method of compliance (see IBC Sections I 04.10 and 104.11) to the stage designation for platforms in elementary and middle schools where the platforms are not more than 1,500 sq.ft. in area and if the platform and any adjacent storage rooms are protected by an approved automatic fire sprinkler system that is designed for a minimum Extra Hazard 1 classification as defined in NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems* (2013 edition). If this alternative method is chosen by the design team, this should be clearly noted on the design documents submitted to the City for review.



Roderick J. Sanchez, AICP, CBO
Director and Building Official
Development Services Department