



Ocean City Fire Department Office of the Fire Marshal Memorandum

To: Ocean City Retail Establishments

From: Fire Marshal David Hartley

Date: May 15, 2020

Re: Occupancy Calculation Guidance: Governors Order 20-05-13-01

On May 13, 2020, Maryland Governor Hogan updated his May 6, 2020 Executive Order, which has allowed for the opening of certain businesses effective 5:00pm May 15, 2020. As part of the order, the Governor has approved the reopening of retail establishments, provided that the total number of persons permitted in a retail establishment at any one time not exceed 50% of that Retail Establishment's Maximum Occupancy (*Order 20-05-134-01, III.B.*). The Order further defines the Maximum Occupancy as that occupancy load set forth under applicable fire code. (*Order 20-05-134-01, III.F.*).

Occupant loads within the Town of Ocean City, under OC Fire Prevention Code (Chapter 34), are calculated utilizing those occupancy specific load factors within National Fire Protection Association 1/101. For retail (Mercantile) occupancies, the following factors should be used by the property owner/proprietors to establish their permitted occupancy under the Governors Order:

Sales Area on Street Floor: 30 ft² per person (gross)
Sales Area Above Street Floor: 60 ft² per person (gross)

As an example to assist in calculations:

Gross Sales Area (Sales Area Square Footage (Length x Width))	50 ft x 40 ft = 2000 ft ²
Normal Allowable Occupant Load (30 ft ² per person (gross))	2000 ft ² ÷ 30 = 66 people
COVID Allowable Occupant Load per Governor's Order (50% Capacity)	66 x 50% = 33 people

Should you need further guidance for occupant load calculations, please feel free to contact the Fire Marshal's Office at 410-289-8780.