

ICC TRI-CHAPTER UNIFORM CODE COMMITTEE (TUCC)



POLICY NUMBER: 8

APPROVAL DATE: May 1, 2008

SUBJECT: Hazardous material control areas in existing buildings

This guideline is developed by the Tri-chapter Uniform Code Committee and is intended to enhance regional consistency in application and enforcement of the Building Code. Please verify acceptance of this guideline with your local building department prior to its application.

CODE REFERENCE (S):

2007 CBC 414.2, Table 414.2.2

ISSUE (S):

2006 IBC requirements for hazardous materials control areas are very different from 97 UBC. UBC allowed 4 control areas per building. Such control areas could be both vertical and horizontal within the building. Required 1-hour occupancy separation between control areas. Each control area was allowed up to 100% of the Exempt Table quantities. Control areas were permitted to span through floors.

2006 IBC is based upon a set number of control areas per floor level. Four control areas are permitted on the first floor and three on the second floor. The number of control areas permitted on floors continues to reduce as you go higher in the building. The maximum allowable quantities of hazardous materials per control area are reduced as the floor level under consideration increases in stories. Two hour horizontal separation is required for the floors of each story. At the fourth story the vertical separation between control areas also increases to 2-hours. There is an exception for fully fire-sprinklered buildings to have 1-hour floors up through the third story. Control areas can no longer span floors.

For TI remodeling within existing buildings, it is very difficult to change floor separations to 2 hours should the building not already have 1-hr floors. Likewise it is difficult to provide 2-hour floors at the fourth floor and above should the existing building have 1-hour floors. The supporting floor members must have the same rating as is required for the floor. Due to the prorating of the percentage of hazardous materials by floor levels results in an existing control area above the first floor becoming non compliant to the current code.

**GUIDELINE/
INTERPRETATION:**

1. For existing control areas approved prior to Jan. 1, 2008, existing amount and use will be allowed to continue based on the previous approval when no modification are being proposed.
2. For modification or alteration to existing control areas, including TI alteration:
 - If the total number of control areas for the entire multi-story building does not exceed four, the 2-hour horizontal separation would not required between floors.
 - If there is one control area for the entire building, but the existing control area is above the first floor level, the 2-hour horizontal separation between floors would not be required.
 - If the existing building has two or more control areas and additional control areas are needed, the total number of control areas within the building could not exceed four.
 - Existing control areas that span floors would be allowed to remain and any additional control areas added could also span floors. Total number of control areas per building could not exceed four.