
FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING SAFETY COMMISSION
**Interpretation by
the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission**

Title: Interpretation of [675 IAC 12-4-11\(b\)\(2\)\(B\)](#)

Date: October 4, 2011

Purpose: The purpose of this nonrule policy document is to clarify the application of [675 IAC 12-4-11\(b\)\(2\)\(B\)](#) to subsequent uses of a Class 1 structure. Subdivision (2)(B) provides as follows:

"(b) No change in the character or use of any building or structure shall be permitted that shall cause the building or structure to be classified within a different occupancy group or within a different division of the same occupancy group, unless the building or structure complies with, or is made to comply with the:

- (1) current rules of the commission for new construction for the proposed revised use of the building; or
- (2) provisions of:

(A) Chapter 34 of the Indiana Building Code ([675 IAC 13-2.5-32](#)); or

(B) [675 IAC 12-13](#).

Exception: Buildings constructed before the April 30, 1998, effective date of the 1998 Indiana Building Code ([675 IAC 13-2.3](#)) that change occupancy classification shall not be considered as a change in occupancy as outlined as follows:

| Previous Classification | 1998 IBC Classification |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| B-1 | S-3 |
| B-2 | B, F-1, M, S-1, and S-2 |
| B-3 | S-4 and S-5 |
| B-4 | F-2 and S-2 |
| Open Parking Garage | S-4 |
| M | U" |

Interpretation: The Commission has determined that any Class 1 structure that complied with the Commission's rules for a "previous classification" may be used for any of the occupancy classifications listed under the "1998 IBC Classification" directly opposite the "previous classification" in the chart in subdivision (2)(B), so long as the "previous classification" was the classification for which the Class 1 structure was originally constructed and all subsequent occupancy classifications have been within any of the occupancy classifications listed under the "1998 IBC Classification" directly opposite the "previous classification" in the chart in subdivision (2)(B). Any owner or occupant of a Class 1 structure for which an occupancy classification is changed in accordance with this interpretation shall provide written verification of the past occupancies of such Class 1 structure.

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