The Codeword is used to clarify provisions of the Harris County Fire Code. The sole intent is to make clear acceptable practice.

Issue Date: 10/10/2013

Subject: Design Occupancy Load Calculation Factor for Salon Style Businesses

Question: What is the design occupancy load factor for calculating occupancy load within a salon style business?

Answer: The prescribed occupancy factor for calculating “business areas” is 100 sf per occupant (gross) per the International Building Code 2006 Chapter 10, Table 1004.1.1

It is Harris County Fire Code determination that the design occupancy load factor does not accurately reflect the occupancy load for a salon style business. The design occupancy load factor for a salon style business shall be determined by using an occupancy load factor of 50 square foot per occupant (gross). This would provide a more accurate occupancy load for this style of business.

Salon style businesses shall include, but not limited to:
- Nail Salons
- Hair/Beauty Salons
- Barber Shops
- Massage Parlors

Building Official
Harris County, Texas

Fire Marshal
Harris County, Texas