

Ministerial Interpretation

The Construction Codes Act

Major Occupancy Classification of Child Care Service Spaces

Issue Number: NBC 2015 – 001
Date Effective: December 1, 2022
Expires: The day the National Building Code of Canada 2020 comes into force.
Page: 1 of 2

Purpose

To provide for consistent application of the National Building Code of Canada 2015 (NBC 2015) throughout Saskatchewan as it applies to spaces within buildings housing child care services.

Discussion

The NBC 2015 is silent on the major occupancy classification of spaces within buildings for the provision of child care services.

Application of the NBC 2015 to child care facilities is not being applied consistently. In some locations a care occupancy classification has been applied resulting in the need for a fire suppression system. In other locations an assembly occupancy classification has been applied resulting in no need for a fire suppression system.

Where child care is provided in the principal residence of the licensee, residential standards apply.

Inconsistent application of the NBC 2015 to child care facilities has resulted in similar facilities in different communities having different challenges in complying with the NBC 2015 and resulting in confusion for industry stakeholders.

Limitations

Child care in Saskatchewan, other than the construction standards regulated under *The Construction Codes Act*, must meet all applicable requirements of *The Child Care Act, 2014* and *The Child Care Regulations, 2015*.

Ministerial Interpretation – NBC 2015 – 001

Major Occupancy Classification of Child Care Service Spaces

The five types of homes and centres that are regulated by *The Child Care Act, 2014* and *The Child Care Regulations* are:

- Child Care Centres (extended-hours centres or full-time centres),
- Teen Student Support Centres (extended-hours centres or full-time centres),
- Family Child Care Homes (licensed or unlicensed),
- Group Family Child Care Homes, and
- Teen Student Support Family Child Care Homes.

Only the above five types of homes and centres may be classified under the NBC 2015 as per the balance of this Ministerial Interpretation.

Ministerial Interpretation

Child care spaces in Saskatchewan may be considered as assembly occupancies or residential occupancies dependent upon the type of building they are located in and the license category that would be applicable.

Child Care Centres or Teen Student Support Centres may be classified as a Division B, Group A, Division 2 assembly occupancy under the provisions of the NBC 2015.

Family Child Care Homes, Group Family Child Care Homes, or a Teen Student Support Family Child Care Home, located in a dwelling unit that is the principal residence of the licensee, may be classified as a Division B, Group C residential occupancy under the provisions of the NBC 2015.

Authority

Section 8 of *The Construction Codes Act*.

Jurisdiction

This interpretation will apply throughout Saskatchewan.

Original approved and signed by:

The Honourable Don McMorris
Minister of Government Relations