

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
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**ASHRAE 62 Intermittent or Variable Occupancy Provision**

**Code:** 2002 Mechanical Code  
**Section:** 403.3

**Date:** October 6, 2004

**Question:**

Can the occupant load for ventilation requirements of a space be calculated on the basis of application of the 3 hour-duration peak occupancy provisions of ASHRAE 62?

**Answer:**

Yes. Section 403.3 requires use of Table 403.3 to calculate the required outdoor ventilation air for a space. However, the exception under Section 403.3 could allow the occupant load for ventilation requirements to be calculated on the basis of application of the 3 hour-duration peak occupancy provisions of ASHRAE 62 as an alternate method subject to approval by the local authority having jurisdiction.

Although not written directly in the code, application of this ASHRAE 62 provision has been a common design practice utilized by design professionals. Application of the provision reduces equipment heating and cooling capacities, duct construction and installation costs, and system operating costs.