

# OCCUPANT LOAD TAGS

INTRODUCTION TO OCCUPANT LOADS SERIES BY MEYERFIRE UNIVERSITY | FEBRUARY 2023

## SUMMARY

**Occupant load tags** are symbols used on plans that simply show the occupant load, the occupant load factor, and the room area. They're used to convey how the occupant load shown on the plan was calculated to clearly, and unambiguously, communicate the calculation to a reviewer.

- The occupant load tag **appears on life safety plans** and indicates information about occupants in a room or space.
- **Occupant load tags vary** by the creator; there are many custom tags. **There is no standard** on the format for showing occupant load calculations.
- Whatever method, table, organization or symbol is used, the **symbol legend on the plans must match the drawings** to clearly show the intent.

The example used in this series of an occupant load tag is shown below.

- The example below has field fields in a table format.
- From top-to-bottom, it indicates
  - (1) the **name** of the room or space,
  - (2) the measured **floor area** in square-feet for the room or space,
  - (3) the **Occupant Load Factor** (OLF) which was pulled from the IBC, NFPA 101, or the applicable building code,
  - (4) whether the area was calculated on a **Gross** or **Net Area** basis, and
  - (5) the resulting **number of occupants**, which is calculated by the area divided by the occupant load factor, and rounded up to the next whole number (even small fractions like 13.1).

AREA NAME:	MAIN OFFICE
AREA (SF):	2,080
OLF:	150
GROSS / NET:	GROSS
OCCUPANTS:	14

An Example Occupant Load Tag

(Typically the descriptions on the left are not shown on the drawings, but the intent should be indicated on the Symbol Legend for the plans)

## CODE/STANDARD REFERENCES



IBC – 2021: Table 1004.5 Occupant Load Factors

NFPA 101 – 2021: Table 7.3.1.2 Occupant Load Factors

## VIDEO LINK

[www.meyerfire.com/university/using-and-understanding-occupant-load-tags](http://www.meyerfire.com/university/using-and-understanding-occupant-load-tags)

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