Occupant Load Determination for Salons

Common occupant load factors
Here are the common occupant load factors used for salons (hair, nails, etc.) from Table 1004.5 of the 2020 Minnesota State Fire Code (MSFC):

- Salons (new – on or after March 31, 2020) – 150 sq. ft. per person.
- Salons (existing – before March 31, 2020) – 100 sq. ft. per person.

Applying occupant load factors to buildings
To determine the occupant load of a space, divide the size of the entire space by the occupant load factor of Table 1004.5 (150 sq. ft. per person for new and 100 sq. ft. per person for existing). Suite-style or open floor plan salons are treated the same.

Calculations
- Salon (measure entire area used)
  - 60 ft. by 25 ft. = 1,500 sq. ft.
  - 1,500 sq. ft. divided by 100 sq. ft. per person (existing) = 15 persons.
  - 1,500 sq. ft. divided by 150 sq. ft. per person (new) = 10 persons.

Note: If the occupant load calculations are to ensure compliance with the governor’s executive order related to COVID-19 (50 percent occupancy — effective June 10, 2020), divide the total occupant load determined above by two and round up (total would be eight for existing and five for new). This is for patrons and customers; staff are not included in these limits.

More information: Email the State Fire Marshal Division Fire Code Team at fire.code@state.mn.us. Visit sfm.dps.mn.gov for the latest updates to this information.

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