



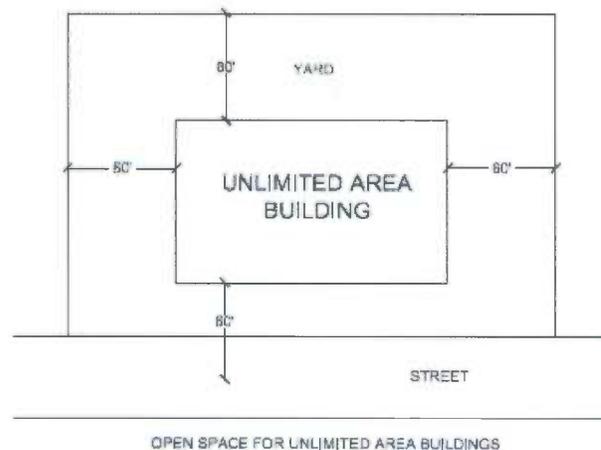
**BUILDING CODE MANUAL
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BUILDING AND SAFETY DIVISION
Based on the 2011 LACBC**

**#60
507
Article 1
08-16-11
Page 1 of 3**

UNLIMITED AREA BUILDINGS

The Building Code addresses criteria of unlimited area buildings in Section 507. Depending on the story height and the occupancy classification, the code presents different circumstances that allow an unlimited area building.

One common thread among the requirements of unlimited area building is to have the building surrounded by increased open space, usually 60 feet in width. The open space must be provided in all directions around the perimeter of the building, not just measured at right angles to the exterior wall. The open space provides a temporary safe area for occupants as they leave the building and reduces exposure to and from adjacent buildings. More importantly the open space is used by the Fire Department in a fire emergency so the open space is accessible by fire service personnel.



Sections 507.6 and 507.7 allow Group A-3 occupancy buildings to have unlimited areas. However, this is only allowed for Group A-3 buildings used as churches, community halls, dance halls, exhibition halls, gymnasiums, lecture halls, indoor swimming pools and tennis courts. Other Group A-3 occupancies like libraries and museums are excluded as they generally have higher fuel loads. Bowling alleys and pool billiard parlors are also excluded as they are often poorly lit and have higher levels of activity. Keep in mind that dancehalls included in Group A-3 occupancy shall not be confused with nightclubs in Group A-2 occupancy.

The following table shall only be used as a guideline and Section 507 shall be reviewed for occupancy specific requirements of unlimited area buildings.

Supersedes BCM 504.3 Article 1 dated 06-18-03

| Section | Occupancy Types | Sprinkler Required | Number of Story Allowed | 60' Yard Required | Reduce 60' * Yard to 40' | Additional Requirements |
|---------|--|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 507.2 | F-2, S-2 | No | 1 | Yes | Yes | See Section 903.2.10 for enclosed parking garages |
| 507.3.1 | B, F, M, S mixed with A-1 and A-2 | Yes | 1 | Yes | Yes | A-1, A-2 separated from B, F, M, S per Section 508.4.4 A-1, A-2 meets allowable area per Section 503.1 A-1, A-2 to exit directly outside |
| 507.4 | B, F, M, S | Yes | 2 | Yes | Yes | |
| 507.6 | A-3 | Yes | 1 | Yes | Yes | Type II Construction No stage (platform is okay) |
| 507.7 | A-3 | Yes | 1 | Yes | No | Type III or IV No stage (platform is okay) Floor level within 21" of grade level Exits with ramp (no stairs) |
| 507.8 | F, S containing H-2, H-3, H-4 | Yes | 2 | Yes | Yes | Group H located at perimeter of building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not to exceed 10% of building area Not to exceed allowable area per Section 506.2 Group H located inside (not at perimeter) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not to exceed 25% of area in Table 503 Group H separated per Table 508.4 Group H on grade level unless permitted higher in Table 503 |
| 507.9 | Aircraft Paint Hanger (H-2) | Yes See 412.6.5 | 1 | No | No | Meet requirement in Section 412.6 Yards with width of minimum 1.5 times building height |
| 507.10 | E | Yes | 1 | Yes | No | Type IIA, IIIA, IV Construction Minimum 2 exits from EACH classroom with one exit directly outside |
| 507.11 | Motion Picture Theater | Yes | 1 | Yes | Yes | Type II Construction |
| 507.12 | Covered Mall Building with Anchor Stores | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Type I, II, III, IV Construction Meet requirements in Section 402.6 E, H, I, R not allowed when 40' yard is used |

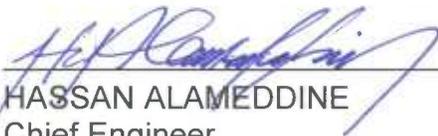
* Maximum 75% of perimeter wall shall face reduced yard and exterior walls and openings shall be 3-hr rated

WRITTEN BY: CLINT LEE
Civil Engineer

REVIEWED BY: JUAN MADRIGAL
Senior Civil Engineer

RECOMMENDED BY:

APPROVED BY:


HASSAN ALAMEDDINE
Chief Engineer


RAJ PATEL
Superintendent of Building