



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

**#114
311
Article 1
10-11-11
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TRUCK LOADING/UNLOADING AREAS WITHIN BUILDINGS

Typically, a parking garage accommodating trucks is classified as Group S-2 occupancy. In accordance with Table 508.3, a fire rated occupancy separation wall is generally required between the parking garage and certain adjoining occupancies, such as factories, industrial uses and the stocking of goods, wares or materials.

However, a clarification of this separation is needed where trucks are "parked" inside a building (partially or completely) for the purpose of loading and unloading. Whether for one truck at a door at grade, or a number of trucks at a large truck well or a "drive-thru" condition, it is impractical to provide a one-hour separation wall between the truck(s) and the adjoining main use of the building.

In these situations, the truck is within the building for the purpose of loading/unloading goods as part of the "process" function of the building, whether it is manufacturing, operations or stocking. The truck loading function is incidental to the major occupancy classification. Also, the loading/unloading area is generally a minor portion of the building area. A separation wall is not practical or appropriate.

Another example may be where the loading/unloading of trucks is the primary function of the building, such as a general delivery service. In this case, the entire building should be classified as a Group S-2 occupancy, and have it meet all necessary requirements for that occupancy classification, including having a mechanical ventilation system in accordance with the Los Angeles County Mechanical Code.

For a particular plan, where the situation falls between the above-mentioned cases, please contact the Research Section for discussion and resolution of the specific plan.

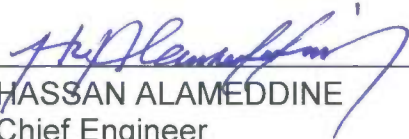
Supersedes BCM 301 Article 3 dated 06-18-97

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