

## **STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-57-99**

December 13, 1999

The following is offered in response to your FAX Memorandum to this office in which you request an interpretation of Section 507.1.1 of the BOCA National Building Code/1996 portion of the 1999 State Building Code. Your question asks if the above referenced code section, allowing unlimited area for Use Group E buildings meeting certain criteria, is only applicable to Use Group E buildings which contain no A-3 occupancies such as auditoriums, multi-purpose rooms, gymnasiums or libraries, which are frequently incorporated within Use Group E buildings.

The answer to your question is found within Section 507.1 of the above referenced code. Section 507.1 allows buildings of several occupancies (including Use Group A-3) that are of certain construction types, that are equipped with an automatic sprinkler system and that meet other criteria to be of unlimited area. This section also allows fire areas of Use Group E which meet the additional criteria of Section 507.1.1 to be in unlimited area buildings. Therefore, if a building were to contain both use groups A-3 and E and met the criteria of both Sections 507.1 and 507.1.1 (along with the requirements of all referenced sections), such a building could be of unlimited area. Since both occupancies enjoy the benefits of unlimited area, there would be no need for separation between the occupancies.