

Addendum

Determining “Allowable Occupancy Capacity Limits”



Many establishments (such as retail businesses, malls, places of worship, salons, restaurants and licensed premises) are working to calculate their normal occupancy capacity to determine their “allowable occupancy capacity limit” to comply with current COVID-19 public health orders. The attached information bulletin from the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) will assist in that effort.

It is important to keep in mind that the “allowable occupancy capacity limit” is only one part of a business or organization’s responsibility to maintain a COVID-19-safe establishment.

The COVID-19 public health orders set out that all establishments must “**implement measures to ensure that members of the public at the business are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two metres from other members of the public**”.

This means an establishment will be limited to either the “allowable occupancy capacity limit” or “**the number of clients that can be safely managed while maintaining physical distancing**”, whichever is lower. In other words, an establishment may have to reduce their “allowable occupant capacity limit” accordingly, to safely and effectively manage social distancing requirements.

Businesses are required to determine how many customers can safely enter and remain in their establishment, while reasonably maintaining a separation of at least two metres from other members of the public.

In addition, businesses are reminded that other public health measures, such as effective mask use, physical distancing and hand washing reduces the spread of COVID-19.

There are a number of considerations that businesses/organizations much consider when determining the allowable occupancy capacity limit, including:

- the physical layout of your establishment
- travel paths, or flow of customers
- staff required to manage “physical distancing”

Example: Hair Salon XXX

Occupant Load – 40 (Calculated by following the OFC information bulletin)

Covid-19 public health orders - Limit the number of members of the public at the business to 25 per cent of the usual capacity of the premises or one person, whichever is higher.

- Calculation: **25 per cent of 40 = 10**

Maintain a safe two metre (six feet) distance from others – The owner reviews the public health orders and determines they need to limit the number of members of the public to six (6) to be able to effectively socially distance their clients. to safely operate their salon in compliance with the public health orders.

Determination – The hair salon limits the public capacity of the salon at **six (6)**.