



# **TECHNICAL BULLETIN**

## **PERMIT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

B-13X

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### ***Floor Live Loads***

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The designations of storage use within a residential building and storage in areas or portions of buildings associated with residential use has given rise to questions on an appropriate design live load to use.

#### **TECHNICAL DETAILS**

The structural design requirements of the California Building Code refer to Table 16-A for uniform and concentrated loads. Based on use or occupancy, specific live loads are indicated for the following uses; residential, residential balconies, and storage. A footnote to the Table indicates that residential occupancies include private dwellings, apartments and hotel guest rooms.

The footnote is significant in the application of appropriate live load design criteria. There is a clear distinction between dwellings, apartments and hotel guest rooms. In the latter instance the forty pound per square foot design criteria would apply only to rooms defined as guest rooms. Other areas of the hotel such as exit facilities, corridors, public lobbies, assembly areas and the like would require appropriate live load criteria. All rooms within a private dwelling or within an apartment may be designed for a forty pound per square foot load. Storage areas associated with other types of residential uses, workshops, studios, craft rooms, private garages and similar uses may be designed for a forty pound per square foot load. These areas should be identified on the plans as residential storage.

An exception to this would be rooms or areas where the loading is known to exceed forty pounds per square foot or those questionable areas where a discussion with the owner or applicant indicates a reasonable likelihood of loads exceeding forty pounds per square foot. In this case the design live loads should be based on the intended use of the area in question. These areas should be clearly labeled on the plan noting use and design load values.

## REFERENCES

1998 California Building Code; Section 1607.3  
1998 California Building Code, Table -16A  
Sonoma County Residential Construction Handbook Section 8

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