STATE BUILDING CODE OPINION 21-12

CODE: 2018 International Building Code
       2018 International Fire Code

SECTION: Chapter 2 Definitions / SBCC Opinion #08-09

ORIGINAL EMAIL: I’m aware of the Nightclub interpretation the SBCC performed in 2008 specifically Interpretation # 08-09. But is the SBCC still firm on their stance? Recently I have found in my jurisdiction that advertising “Karaoke” is a way around the sprinkler requirements set forth in the code.

QUESTION 1: Does the State consider Karaoke as a form of live entertainment?
ANSWER: The state does not have any formal interpretation of Karaoke. The local jurisdiction or Code Official would interpret live entertainment.

QUESTION 2: Does the State consider Karaoke as a form of live entertainment regardless of the Max occupancy?
ANSWER: The state code does not define this. The local jurisdiction or Code Official approves occupancy and use during the plan review and permitting process.

QUESTION 3: Does the State consider a DJ as live entertainment triggering the Sprinkler requirement?
ANSWER: The state does not have any authority over enforcement. Interpretations/requirements not defined in the code would be up to the local jurisdiction or Code Official.

QUESTION 4: Regarding “primary use”, If a restaurant or tavern with unfixed tables and chairs 8+/- hours a day has a DJ or Karaoke for the last 2+/- hours of the day with a “viewing” area greater than 350sqf trigger the Sprinkler requirements?
ANSWER: This would be defined by the local jurisdiction or Code Official. Viewing area is not defined in the definitions of the model code.

QUESTION 5: Who has the Final say determining if Karaoke is live entertainment and requires Fire Sprinklers?
ANSWER: The local jurisdiction or Code Official.

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUESTED BY: Troy Hendren, Pasco Washington