

Regulatory texts

The regulatory texts classify buildings on the basis of the risks inherent to each building type (height, occupancy, activities etc.) and indicate the requirements that must be met for fire safety for each type.

The regulatory texts are the only applicable reference documents and must be consulted in their entirety.

Establishments are classified into the following categories:

Establishments open to the public (ERP): amended Decree of 25/06/80

High-rise buildings (IGH): amended Decree of 18/10/77

Residential buildings: amended Decree of 31 January 1986

Facilities classified for environmental protection (ICPE): Law of 19/07/1996 and standard decrees for facilities with declaration requirements

Workplaces: Labour code and amended Decree of 05/08/1992

Building classification

Establishments open to the public (ERP)

ERPs are classified in five categories and types. The building type depends on the use type. The categories are determined based on public and staff occupancies.

- 1: over 1500 people
- 2: between 701 and 1500 people
- 3: between 301 and 700 people
- 4: 300 people or less, excluding establishments in category 5
- 5: establishments mentioned in Article R 123-14 in which the public occupancy rate does not exceed the number specified by the safety regulations for each type of business.

The following classifications only apply to establishments in categories 1 to 4.

Facilities set up in a building

- J:** Care facilities for the elderly or people with disabilities
- L:** Courtrooms, conference and meeting rooms, concert halls and multipurpose halls
- M:** Stores, shopping centres
- N:** Restaurants, bars
- O:** Hotels, boarding houses
- P:** Dance halls, gaming rooms
- R:** Educational establishments, summer camps
- S:** Libraries, documentation centres
- T:** Exhibition halls
- U:** Sanitary facilities
- V:** Places of worship
- W:** Administration, banks, offices
- X:** Covered sporting facilities
- Y:** Museums

Special facilities

- EF:** Floating facilities
- GA:** Train stations
- OA:** Mountain hotels and restaurants
- PA:** Facilities for outdoor activities
- PS:** Covered parking garages
- SG:** Inflatable structures
- CTS:** Tents and awnings
- REF:** Mountain refuges

High-rise and very-high-rise buildings (IGHs and ITGHs)

An IGH is a building over 50m tall for residential buildings or over 28m tall for other types of buildings.

An ITGH is a building over 200m tall.

The Decree of 18 January 2012 (which supersedes that of 18 October 1977) includes general measures applicable to all classes of IGHs and special provisions applicable to the different classes of buildings.

The different classes are defined as follows:

GHA: buildings for residential use

GHO: buildings for hotel use

GHR: buildings for educational use

GHS: buildings to be used as archival storage

GHU: buildings for sanitary use

GHW1: buildings for office use: 28 m PBDN* 50 m

GHW2: buildings for office use: PBDN* > 50 m

GHZ: buildings for mixed use or including an ERP

*PBDN: last-level floor slab

