



Building Safety Division
Planning & Development Services
5.14.2020

Internal Guideline COVID19-2020-001 (Temporary)
Outdoor Dining Calculation

Overview:

ISSUE: In order to assist members of the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) with guidance for enforcement of Executive Order No. 61 as it relates to the occupant load of dining establishments which is based on certificate of occupancy.

Internal Guideline:

Where the Certificate of Occupancy is unclear, or in cases where the Certificate of Occupancy for the existing restaurant is not available to VDH staff, an appropriate approximation for the lowest occupant load is achieved by counting the number of seats or portions of seats in benches as follows: The permitted occupant load under Governor Northam's Executive Order No. 61 may be estimated by counting the total number of seats in a restaurant and dividing that number by 2. Seating in booths shall be calculated at 18-inches per person. The result shall be a whole number.

Lynn Underwood

Lynn Underwood, MCP, CBO
Building Official

May 15, 2020

Date