

Q: What constitutes “physical separation” for WC audit purposes, allowing a clerical worker in a manufacturing environment to be classified as Code 8810?

A: Physical Separation or Physically Separated. Physical separation between operational departments is achieved when operations are conducted in separate buildings at a location, or on separate floors of a building. If the departments are on the same floor, to achieve physical separation they must be separated by permanent walls not less than eight (8) feet in height, and constructed from standard building materials. Standard building materials include brick, block and concrete and, if framed with wood or light gauge steel, the walls should be covered with wallboard, plywood, masonite, sheet metal or other solid materials.

Stock shelves, chain link fencing, movable partitions, fixtures, office furniture or similar partition do not constitute physical separation.

An opening in the partition or wall to provide for ingress and egress of materials, equipment or personnel is permitted.

Operations subject to separate classifications that are conducted on separate shifts but in a common work space are considered physically separated, provided the operations are not conducted simultaneously.