



Florida Division of State Fire Marshal

The Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association,
"Organization" (§633.026)

Informal Interpretation

Date: September 12, 2013

NFPA Document Number: NFPA 101

Edition: 2009

Paragraph Reference: 28.3.5.1

For purpose of this petition, pertinent factors do not include the name of the governmental agency or persons representing that agency. Petitioners are discouraged from making any personal assertions about an agency or agency official. If this involves an actual situation, briefly explain all of the pertinent factors.

Actual Situation Explanation:

The local fire official has stated that sprinklers are to be installed in the bathrooms of dwelling units less than 55 sq ft. on a new hotel designed in accordance with NFPA 13.

FM response: Section 28.3.5.1 states: All buildings, other than those complying with 28.3.5.2, shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 28.3.5.3. There is no exception for bathrooms less than 55 SqFt in new hotels as there is in NFPA 101 Chapter 29, .3.5.5 for existing hotels.

He states, "All Code requirements for fire sprinkler installation in an occupancy are driven by either NFPA 101 or NFPA 1 and in certain occupancies have more stringent requirements that supersede NFPA 13 installation requirements. NFPA 13 21.1.1.2 states "Where the requirements of the reference standard differ from the requirements of this standard, the reference standard shall take precedence."

His finding is that bathrooms in new hotels are required to be protected with sprinkler coverage.

Question (*should be worded so that it can be answered with either "Yes" or "No"*):

The question is, can sprinklers in the bathrooms of the dwelling units of a new hotel that are less than 55 sq ft be omitted?

Rulings herein expressed are not the formal position of the Florida State Fire Marshal's Office

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Answer: Yes

Yes -- Provided the installation meets all the requirements of the 2007 edition of *NFPA 13*, paragraph 8.15.8.1.1 "...and that have walls and ceilings of noncombustible or limited-combustible materials with a 15-minute thermal barrier rating , **including the walls and ceiling behind any shower enclosure or tub.**" If they do not meet this exception from *NFPA 13*, then No.

Committee Answer Submitted by,
Wesley Hayes, Chair
Informal Fire Code Interpretation Committee

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