

For Immediate Release to All Automatic Fire Sprinkler Contractors

Beginning July 2, 2012, the Department of Code Administration will fully align automatic fire sprinkler system hydrostatic acceptance testing with the requirements of NFPA 13 2007 edition.

Compliance procedures are as follows:

- In accordance with 2007 NFPA 13 §24.2.1.4 the contractor may relocate 20 sprinkler heads or fewer only. The contractor must conduct a hydrostatic test at system working pressure with no loss for 2 hours. The contractor shall make a clear notation on plans citing the site recorded system working pressure for use by inspectors during testing.
- In accordance with 2007 NFPA 13 §24.2.1.5 the contractor may add and or relocate more than 20 sprinklers. The contractor must conduct a hydrostatic test at not less than 200 psi. For systems with a working pressure in excess of 150 psi the system shall be tested at a pressure of 50 psi in excess of the system working pressure. Where system working pressure exceeds 150 psi, the contractor shall make a clear notation on plans citing the site recorded system working pressure plus 50 psi for use by inspectors during testing. Hydrostatic tests in both instances shall maintain the appropriate pressure with no loss for 2 hours.
- In accordance with 2007 NFPA 13 §24.2.1.5 the inspector shall determine the efficacy of isolating any added piping or system extensions prior to conducting required hydrostatic testing.

References

2009 Virginia Construction Code

- **§903.3 Installation requirements.** Automatic sprinkler systems shall be designed and installed in accordance with Sections 903.3.1 through 903.3.6.
- **§903.3.1 Standards.** Sprinkler systems shall be designed and installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, unless otherwise permitted by Sections 903.3.1.2 and 903.3.1.3
- **§903.3.1.1 NFPA 13 sprinkler systems.** Where the provisions of this code require that a building or portion thereof be equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with this section, sprinklers shall be installed throughout in accordance with NFPA 13 except as provided in section 903.3.1.1.1.
- **Chapter 35 Referenced Standards.** NFPA 13-07 Installation of Sprinkler Systems.

2007 NFPA 13

- **§24.2.1.1** Unless permitted by 24.2.1.2 through 24.2.1.6, all piping and attached appurtenances subjected to *system working pressure*¹ shall be hydrostatically tested at 200 psi and shall maintain that pressure without loss for 2 hours.
- **§24.2.1.2** Portions of systems normally subjected to *system working pressures*¹ in excess of 150 psi shall be tested as described in 24.2.1.1, at a pressure of 50 psi in excess of *system working pressure*¹.
- **§24.2.1.4** Modifications affecting 20 or fewer sprinklers shall not require testing in excess of *system working pressure*¹.
- **§24.2.1.5** Where addition or modification is made to an existing system affecting more than 20 sprinklers, the new portion shall be isolated and tested at not less than 200 psi for 2 hours.

1. ^System Working Pressure, 2007 NFPA 13 §3.3.17 - The maximum anticipated static (non-flowing) or flowing pressure applied to sprinkler system components exclusive of surge pressures and exclusive of pressure from the fire department connection.

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