



# Florida Division of State Fire Marshal

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

## **Informal Interpretation**

**Date:** 4/16/20

**NFPA Document Number:** 13R 2013 Edition

**Paragraph Reference:** 6.6.6

*Explain how the Petitioner's substantial interests are being affected by the question below:*

NFPA 13R is clear that sprinklers are not required in non combustibile elevator shafts meeting the requiremntns of ANSI A17.1. NFPA 13 has language that sprinklers are required suspension elevators if the belt does not a FT1 rating.

It seems like NFPA 13R would add that section, or any of the other sections requiring sprinklers in elevators if that was the intent. Elevator contractors and inspectors are confusing these requirements at the end of a project and demanding general contractor either add sprinkler or upgrade to a belt with an FT1 rating. This in turn is requiring cutting drywall, substantial change order costs for repairs, adding alarm devices, as well as delays in obtaining certificates of occupancy.

*Enter the Petitioner's question concerning an interpretation of the FFPC:*

Does the provision in NFPA13R, section 6.6.6, to omit sprinklers still apply when the elevator utilizes a suspension belt without an FT1 rating?

**Answer: No**

Although NFPA 13R 6.6.6 2013 Edition does state that sprinklers shall not be required in noncombustible elevator shafts were the elevator cars comply with ANSI A17.1, Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators, NFPA 13R 6.6.8 2013 Edition also states "***All situations regarding sprinkler location and position that are not directly discussed in NFPA 13R shall be in accordance with NFPA 13***".

The situation of the noncombustible shaft with ANSI A17.1 Approved elevator car having a combustibile suspension is not addressed in NFPA 13R what so ever, which would require in this case to apply NFPA 13 R 6.6.8" ***All situations regarding sprinkler location and position that are not directly discussed in NFPA 13R shall be in accordance with NFPA 13***".

The NFPA 13 code provisions for elevator shafts are as follows:

NFPA 13 8.15.5.6 states "***the sprinkler required at the top of the elevator hoistway by 8.15.5.5 shall not be required where the hoistway for passenger elevators is noncombustible or limited-combustible and the car enclosure materials meet the requirements of ASME A17.1, Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators***".

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

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**8.15.5.7 Combustible Suspension in Elevators. 8.15.5.7.1 Sprinklers shall be installed at the top and bottom of elevator hoistways where elevators utilize combustible suspension means such as noncircular elastomeric-coated or polyurethane-coated steel belts.**

**8.15.5.7.2 The sprinklers in the elevator hoistway shall not be required when the suspension means provide not less than an FT-1 rating when tested to the vertical burn test requirements of UL 62, Flexible Cords and Cables, and UL 1581, Reference Standard for Electrical Wires, Cables, and Flexible Cords.**

In Conclusion it is the Committee's majority opinion that as 13R is **currently written**, Sprinkler coverage **is** required at the top and bottom of shaft if combustible suspension is employed, with sprinkler coverage not being required when the suspension means provided has not less than an FT-1 rating when tested to the vertical burn test requirements of UL 62, Flexible Cords and Cables, and UL 1581, Reference Standard for Electrical Wires, Cables, and Flexible Cords as per NFPA 13 8.15.5.7.2

Committee Answer Submitted by,  
James Groff, Chairman  
Informal Fire Code Interpretation Committee

**Region 1** - Delegate: Vacant  
Alternate: N/A\*

**Region 2** - Delegate: Vacant  
Alternate: N/A\*

**Region 3** - Delegate: James Groff, Jacksonville Fire Rescue. (Committee Chair) **N**  
Alternate: Robert Growick **No**

**Region 4** - Delegate: Cheryl Edwards, Lakeland Fire Rescue **No**  
Alternate: N/A\*

**Region 5** - Delegate: Anthony Apfelbeck, Altamonte Springs Building Department **No**  
Alternate: Tim Ippolito, Casselberry F. R. **Yes**

**Region 6** - Delegate: Robert Salvaggio, Cape Corral Fire Rescue **No**  
Alternate: Janet Washburn, Bonita Springs **No**

**Region 7** - Delegate: Matthew E. Welhaf, Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services Department **No**  
Alternate: Sean Brown, Broward Sheriff Fire Rescue & Emergency Services Department **No**

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