



Florida Division of State Fire Marshal

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

Informal Interpretation

Date: 1/28/2020

NFPA Document Number: 13 Edition: 2013

Paragraph Reference: 8.1.1

Explain how the Petitioner's substantial interests are being affected by the LFO's interpretation of the NFPA citation above: Petitioner operates a gym in a strip mall and desires to use a portable, infrared sauna in the space.

Enter a statement of the LFO's interpretation of the NFPA citation above and identify the manner in which the statement was rendered: The local AHJ contends that the portable seven foot tall sauna be treated as a separate room and requires sprinkler coverage.

Enter a statement of the interpretation that the Petitioner contends should be given to the NFPA citation above and a statement supporting the Petitioner's interpretation: Petitioner contends that the sauna should not be treated as a separate room and the overhead sprinkler coverage is sufficient.

Explain how the Petitioner's substantial interests are being affected by the question below: Petitioner states that sprinkler installation is against manufacturer's recommendations for sauna.

Enter the Petitioner's question concerning an interpretation of the FFPC: Does NFPA 13, 8.1.1 require the installation of sprinklers in a portable sauna when located in a sprinklered building?

Answer:

Yes

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

Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association | P. O. Box 325 Hobe Sound, FL 33475 | Tel 772-349-1507 | Fax 772-546-6675

Website: www.FFMIA.org | Email: info@ffmia.org | http://www.myfloridacfo.com/sfm/bfpr/bfpr_index.htm



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NFPA 13 provides the minimum requirements for the design and installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems and exposure protection sprinkler systems covered within the standard. Its purpose is to provide a reasonable degree of protection for life and property from fire through standardization of design, installation, and testing requirements for sprinkler systems, including private fire service mains, based on sound engineering principles, test data, and field experience.

NFPA 13, Chapter 4, sets forth the general requirements that apply to all of NFPA 13 and states "A building, where protected by an automatic sprinkler system installation, shall be provided with sprinklers in all areas except where specific sections of this standard permit the omission of sprinklers. Our analysis begins with the premise that every area of the building in question must be sprinklered unless a specific provision allows the area not to be sprinklered. NFPA 13, Chapter 8, deals exclusively with installation details such as positioning, and location of system components, such as sprinklers and valves. Subsection 8.1.1., encompasses the requirements for spacing, location and position of sprinklers, and is based on the following principles: (1) sprinklers shall be installed throughout the premises and (4) sprinklers shall be permitted to be omitted from areas specifically allowed by this standard. Section 8.14, entitled "Special Situations," sets forth situations where the omission of sprinklers is permitted. These include certain concealed spaces, vertical shafts, vertical openings, elevator hoistways and machine rooms, spaces underground floors, exterior docks, and platforms, and exterior roofs or canopies. The situation as depicted in the question and pictured below does not qualify for omission of sprinkler coverage.



- Roof & Floor Panels
83.4" x 72.1" x 2.75" thick (see diagram)
- Roof & Floor Panels
80.5" x 65.4" x 2.75" thick (see diagram)
- Side Panels
69.5" x 65.4" x 2.75" thick

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

Region 1: Vacant / Vacant

Region 2: Babette Ferris-No response / Vacant

Region 3: James Groff-**Yes** / Robert Growick-**Yes**

Region 4: Philip Guglietti-**Yes** / Cheryl Edwards-**Yes**

Region 5: Anthony Apfelbeck -**Yes** / Timothy Ippolito yes

Region 6: Robert Salvaggio-**Yes** /Alternate Janet Washburn-**Yes**

Region 7: Bryan Parks-No Response / Vacant

Committee Region Map



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