

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202
919-661-5880**

Group R Sprinkler Requirements

Code: 2006 North Carolina Fire Code
Section: 903.2.7

Date: December 2006

In November 2006, Section 903.2.7 of the 2003 International Building Code and the 2003 International Fire Code that was adopted as part of the 2006 North Carolina code set was deferred to the legislature by rulemaking procedures.

Question:

How is Section 903.2.7 enforced until the legislature concludes this matter?

Answer:

Until the legislature determines the final code outcome, the NC Building Code Council elected to revert the requirements back to the 2002 edition. In this case, Section 903.2.7 of the 2002 North Carolina code states the following:

903.2.7 Group R. *An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3 shall be provided throughout all buildings with a Group R-1, R-2 or R-4 fire area as described in this Section.*

903.2.7.1 Group R-1. *An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout buildings with a Group R-1 fire area.*

Exceptions:

- 1. Where guestrooms are not more than three stories above the lowest level of exit discharge and each guestroom has at least one door leading directly to an exterior exit access that leads directly to approved exits.*
- 2. A residential sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.2 shall be allowed in buildings, or portions thereof, of Group R-1.*

903.2.7.2 Group R-2. *An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all buildings with a Group R-2 fire area where more than two stories in height, including basements, or where having more than 16 dwelling units.*

Exception: *A residential sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.2 shall be allowed in buildings, or portions thereof, of Group R-2.*

903.2.7.3 Group R-4. *An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all buildings with a Group R-4 fire area with more than eight occupants.*

Exceptions:

- 1. An automatic sprinkler system is not required in Group R-4 adult and child day care facilities.*
- 2. An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.2 or Section 903.3.1.3 shall be allowed in Group I-1 facilities.*

This interpretation will be updated when more information is available from the legislature.