

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

Computer Room Sprinklers

Code: 2002 Fire Prevention Code
Section: 903.3.1.1.1

Date: July 14, 2004

Question:

Does Item #2 of Section 903.3.1.1.1 allow for the removal of sprinklers within computer rooms?

Answer:

No. The intent of this section is to prevent a water-based sprinkler system from being installed in an area that contains incompatible materials that may not represent a serious life or fire hazard. Without a sprinkler system within the computer room, a fire can build and overwhelm the adjacent sprinkler system.

The reason sprinklers are allowed in computer rooms is because it is understood that computer equipment would be damaged at the temperatures necessary to make a sprinkler release. If the concern is for an accidental release of water, a pre-action system can be used. A pre-action system requires the activation of a smoke or heat detector before water can enter the piping.