Sprinklers in Townhouses Separated by Two 1-hour Walls

**Code:** 2012 NC Residential Code  
**Section:** R313.1  
**Date:** July 24, 2012

**Question:**  
In accordance with R313.1, Exception, townhouses may be constructed without a sprinkler system provided it is constructed with a common 2-hour fire-resistance-rated wall. Is the same exemption allowed if the townhouse units are separated by two 1-hour fire-resistance-rated walls?

**Answer:**  
Yes. It is the intent of the code that townhouse units with a 2-hour separation are not required to be sprinklered. The two 1-hour rated walls are required to be rated from both sides.

**Keywords:**  
firewall