


**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

File No: 06-0042	INTERPRETATION	Page 1 of 1
Interpretation Date:	January 20, 2009	
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2006	
Subject:	NFPA 13R	
Keywords:	Construction requirements, sprinklers	
Building Code Reference(s):	A.2.7.2.1., B.3.2.1.1., B.3.2.5.13.(1); 3.2.5.13.(2) (Refer to Interpretation 98-0123)	
Question:		
<p>Can NFPA 13R be used for the design of the sprinkler system for a residential building that is 4-storeys in building height where 1 or more storeys have a mezzanine that complies with Article 3.2.1.1?</p>		
Interpretation:		
<p>Yes.</p> <p>Sentence 3.2.5.13.(2) states that NFPA 13R is permitted to be used for the design of an automatic sprinkler system installed in a building of residential occupancy throughout, not more than 4 storeys in building height conforming to Articles 3.2.2.42 through 3.2.2.48.</p> <p>NFPA standards are not fully compatible with the building classifications and construction requirements of the BCBC 2006. Accordingly, Article 2.7.2.1. clarifies that in the case of conflict between the provisions of the BC Building Code and those of a referenced document the provisions of the BC Building Code shall govern.</p> <p>Article 3.2.5.13. determines the applicable sprinkler standard based on the use of the building, number of storeys in building height and applicable construction requirements.</p> <p>Mezzanines that comply with Article 3.2.1.1. are not required to be classified as a storey in calculating building height. It is therefore possible for each storey in the proposed building to contain a mezzanine and NFPA 13R would be the applicable sprinkler standard.</p> <p>In summary, NFPA 13R identifies the building types defined in NFPA Standards that are considered within the scope of NFPA 13R. Similarly, the requirements of Article 3.2.5.13. outline the building types as defined by the BCBC 2006 that are considered within the scope of NFPA 13R. These requirements conflict with each other. Therefore, consistent with Article 2.7.2.1, the provisions of the BC Building Code as outlined in Sentence 3.2.5.13.(2) apply.</p>		
 _____ R. J. Light, Committee Chair		
<small>The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee of AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, and POABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. The purpose of the committee is to encourage uniform province wide interpretation of the BC Building Code. These views should not be considered as the official interpretation of legislated requirements based on the BC Building Code, as final responsibility for an interpretation rests with the local Authority Having Jurisdiction. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.</small>		