

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

File No: 98-0119

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: December 15, 2004

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 1998

Subject: **Sprinkler Standards for Aircraft Hangars**

Keywords: Aircraft Hangar, Sprinkler system

Building Code Reference(s): 3.2.5.13.(1), A-3.2.5.13.(1)

Question:

An aircraft hangar is required by Sentence 3.2.5.13.(1) to be sprinklered in conformance with NFPA 13. NFPA 13 provides a cross-reference (Clause 5-26) to NFPA 409, *Standard on Aircraft Hangars* for sprinkler system installation criteria. NFPA 409 addresses other issues, including construction requirements, fire separations, foam systems, spatial separation, etc. Except for sprinkler criteria, do the additional requirements in NFPA 409, including the requirements for foam systems, apply as a result of an indirect cross-reference from NFPA 13?

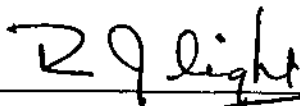
Interpretation:

No.

Not all additional requirements of NFPA 409 are required. The reference to NFPA 409 from the building code is in the context of sprinkler requirements only.

Subsection 3.2.2. determines where a sprinkler system is required. Based on the premise that the proposed aircraft hangar building is required to be sprinklered by Subsection 3.2.2., Sentence 3.2.5.13.(1) requires the sprinkler system to conform to NFPA 13. Appendix note A-3.2.5.13.(1) clarifies that, while only NFPA 13 is called up directly by Sentence 3.2.5.13.(1), the additional sprinkler criteria in other NFPA standards are included automatically. Clause 5-26 of NFPA 13 identifies that additional sprinkler design criteria are provided in NFPA 409 that is specific to hangar buildings. It is interpreted that the additional sprinkler design criteria in NFPA 409 are required to be considered by the sprinkler design professional.

"Good engineering practice" should be applied by the design professionals to evaluate the merits of other aspects included in NFPA 409, such as the installation of a foam suppression system, construction requirements, fire separations, etc.



R. J. Light, Committee Chair