

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0189

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	June 14, 2022
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Design by a Registered Professional for NFPA 13R and 13D Sprinkler Systems
Keywords:	NFPA 13R, NFPA 13D, Sprinkler System
Building Code Reference(s):	Division C 2.2.7.1.(1), Division B 3.2.5.12, 9.10.1.3.(8)

Question:

In buildings regulated by Division B, Part 9, are sprinkler systems that comply with NFPA 13R or 13D required to be designed by a Registered Professional?

Interpretation:

No.

Sentence 2.2.7.1.(1) in Division C of the BCBC states the buildings and parts of buildings where involvement by a Registered Professional is required. This includes Part 3 buildings, and one of the other conditions is sprinkler systems in Part 9 buildings where the systems are designed to NFPA 13 "Installation of Sprinkler Systems".

In other locations, the BCBC also references NFPA 13R "Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Low-Rise Residential Occupancies" and NFPA 13D "Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes".

For Part 9 buildings, Sentence 9.10.1.3.(8) states:

"Sprinkler systems shall be designed, constructed and installed in conformance with Articles 3.2.5.12. to 3.2.5.15. and 3.2.5.17."

Sentence 3.2.5.12.(1) requires sprinkler systems to be designed to NFPA 13 except as permitted by Sentences (2), (3) and (4). For a Part 9 building, which by definition is limited to maximum 3 storeys in building height, Sentence 3.2.5.12.(2) permits a sprinkler system to be designed to NFPA 13R for a building of Group C major occupancy that contains no other major occupancies. Sentence 3.2.5.12.(3) permits a sprinkler system to be designed to



Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair

The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing AIBC, EGBC and BOABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. The Building and Safety Standards Branch, Province of BC and the City of Vancouver participate in the committee's proceedings with respect to interpretations of the BC Building Code. 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.

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NFPA 13D for a building of residential occupancy throughout that contains no more than 2 dwelling units.

The reference in Sentence 9.10.1.3.(8) to Part 3 for the sprinkler system requirements does not mean that a Part 9 building is considered to be a Part 3 building for the purposes of the sprinkler system. The reference to Part 3 is intended to establish the applicable sprinkler standards and the conditions in which they can be applied.

Division C Sentence 2.2.7.1.(1) requires a Registered Professional for the design of NFPA 13 systems in Part 9 buildings, but not for NFPA 13R or 13D systems in Part 9 buildings. The applicable provisions in Part 3 do not require a Registered Professional for NFPA 13R or 13D systems. Therefore, the BCBC does not require a Registered Professional for the design of sprinkler systems to NFPA 13R or 13D in Part 9 buildings.

Sprinkler permits are issued by applicable local jurisdictions. The authority having jurisdiction should be consulted as to whether there is a local requirement for a Registered Professional for a sprinkler permit submittal, particularly for sprinkler systems designed to NFPA 13R.



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