



INFORMATION BULLETIN / PUBLIC - PLUMBING CODE

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Sprinkler Protection for Exterior Projections

This bulletin clarifies the City of Los Angeles code interpretation of minimum sprinkler design and installation requirements for protection of exterior projections per Los Angeles Plumbing Code, Chapter 20, Section 2010.0, 2013.0, and 2014.0 NFPA code adoption and amendments.

Depending on the type of sprinkler system and type of construction, sprinklers may be omitted from canopies, roofs, porte-cocheres, balconies, decks or similar projections.

NFPA 13 Systems:

- A) Sprinklers are required below canopies, roofs, balconies, decks, or similar projections greater than 4 feet in width except if the projection meets all of the following conditions: The projection is constructed with non-combustible, limited combustible or fire retardant-treated wood as defined in NFPA 703, contains no fuel fired equipment or storage below, and has no habitable space or occupancy above. (NFPA 13 2022 Edition sections: 9.2.3.1, A.9.2.3.1, 9.2.3.2, 9.2.3.2.1, 9.2.3.4).
- B) Sprinklers are required under areas of buildings where above-grade floors extend more than 4 feet wide beyond the exterior wall below, and in all recessed areas including, but not limited to entries, alcoves, roofs or exits more than 4 feet deep. (NFPA 13 2022 Edition sections: 9.3.19.1)
- C) Sprinklers are required for dwelling unit balconies and/or similar projections that extend or recess more than 4 feet, combustibles shall be considered stored and handled under all dwelling unit balconies, decks, roofs and similar projections. (NFPA 13 2022 Edition section 9.3.20).

NFPA 13R Systems:

- A) Where a roof, deck or balcony greater than 4 ft wide is provided above, sprinklers shall be installed to protect attached exterior balconies, attached exterior decks, and ground floor patios directly serving dwellings units in buildings of Type V construction. (NFPA 13R 2022 Edition section 6.6.5.1)
- B) Sprinklers are required under areas of buildings where above-grade floors extend more than 4 feet wide beyond the exterior wall below, and in all recessed areas including, but not limited to entries, alcoves, or exits more than 4 feet deep. (NFPA 13R 2022 Edition sections: 6.6.5, 6.6.5.1, 6.6.8 and NFPA 13 2022 Edition sections: 9.2.3.2, 9.2.3.20).

NFPA 13D Systems:

- A) Sprinklers are required for enclosed porches, carports or similar spaces with habitable space located above or fuel fired equipment installed underneath. (LABC 2023, Chapter 35, SFM amended NFPA 13D 2022 Edition section 8.3.4, NFPA 13D 2022 Edition sections 8.3.5.1 and 8.3.5.1.2)
- B) Sprinklers are required under exterior projections above any single entrance/exit of a dwelling greater than 4 feet. (NFPA 13D 2022 Edition section 8.3.6)