




OCEAN CITY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
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MEMORANDUM

Subject: Sprinkler Protection of Exterior Projections in Buildings Protected in Accordance with NFPA 13	Memo #: 2022-002
	Effective: March 22, 2022
Authority: Deputy Chief Josh Bunting, Fire Marshal 	Internal (FMO Staff)

This memo shall serve as a formal interpretation regarding sprinkler protection for attached exterior projections (including awnings) exceeding 4' in width (depth off of the building exterior wall) in buildings protected throughout by a sprinkler system installed in accordance with NFPA 13.

Although NFPA 13, 2016: 8.15.7.2 states that sprinklers may be omitted from exterior projections exceeding 4' in width, subject to the projections being constructed with a non-combustible frame, limited combustibles, or fire retardant-treated wood with an inherently flame-resistant fabric overlay in accordance with NFPA 701, commentary from the NFPA 13 Handbook provides further clarification regarding the permitted omission of sprinklers only being applicable where the use beneath the projection is limited to "pedestrian use."

Formal Interpretation:

Where an exterior projection exceeds 4' in width, and the area beneath the projection is utilized for contiguous occupancy use and/or an extension of the occupancy beyond simple pedestrian walkways/use or occupant balconies, (such as, but not limited to: restaurant seating, storage, temporary or fixed vehicle parking, etc.), the area shall be provided with sprinkler protection.

This requirement shall not apply to existing exterior projections that were originally approved for use by this office at the time of their installation, where the use beneath the projection remains unchanged.