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

NFPA 13 Systems:

NFPA 13 systems require sprinkler protection under canopies, roofs, porte-cochères, balconies, decks or similar projections depending on the type of construction of the projection or the intended use of the space below the projection:

A) Sprinklers are required below canopies, roofs, balconies, decks or similar projections within dwelling units greater than 2 feet in width. Combustibles shall be considered stored and handled under all balconies, decks, roofs and similar projections.

B) Sprinklers are required below canopies, roofs, balconies, decks, or similar projections greater than 4 feet in width when such projections have habitable space or occupancy above.

C) Sprinklers are required below canopies, roofs, balconies, decks or similar projections greater than 4 feet in width when such projections are of combustible construction.

D) Sprinklers are required under areas of buildings where above-grade floors extend more than 4 feet wide beyond the exterior wall below, and in recessed entries, alcoves, or exits more than 4 feet deep.

NFPA 13R Systems:

A) Sprinklers are required for all exterior projections when the building is of Type V construction as defined by the Los Angeles Building Code.

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 recessed entries, alcoves, or exits more than 4 feet deep.

NFPA 13D Systems:

A) Sprinklers are required for enclosed porches, carports, or similar spaces with habitable spaces located above or fuel fired equipment installed underneath.

B) Sprinklers are required under exterior projections above the single entrance/exit of a dwelling.