



# NIH Division of the Fire Marshal

## Administrative Interpretation 16-2

### Sprinkler and Fire Alarm Submittals

**Code reference:** NIH Policy Manual Chapter (MC) 1370 G.2.b. and Appendix 2

**Background:** The referenced MC 1370 section requires submittal of all sprinkler and fire alarm system shop drawings to the Division of the Fire Marshal (DFM) for review prior to installation. The appendix exempts sprinkler submittals of 3 or fewer sprinklers. This interpretation formalizes the current practice of DFM-allowed exceptions.

#### Interpretation:

- Projects requiring minor modification to, or addition of, 3 or fewer sprinklers or 3 or fewer fire alarm notification appliances do not require DFM shop drawing review.
- These devices and related piping / wiring will be inspected during normal above-ceiling and wall close-in inspections.
- Sprinkler work must be in accordance with the existing system pipe sizes and sprinkler spacing.
- Fire alarm devices must match or be compatible with the existing system.
- Fire alarm circuitry must match the performance criteria of the existing system.
- P.O. should advise DFM staff of their option to use this exception not to submit shop drawings at the pre-construction meeting or before onsite fire inspection.
- ORF can witness acceptance test in place of DFM.
- As-built drawings must be provided if required by the PO for permanent record.

**Supersedes:** N/A

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MC 1370 excerpts provided for convenience

G.2.b:

Required Fire Protection Construction Submittal Reviews: Any organization including but not limited to the ORFDO, the Center for Information Technology (CIT) or other IC engaged in construction, renovation, alteration or major equipment installation, must submit the required fire protection construction documents concerning the project elements outlined in Appendix 2 to the DFM for review and approval.

1. All fire protection construction submittals must be reviewed and approved by the DFM prior to installation; and
2. Only the DFM approved fire protection construction submittals including but not limited to sprinkler and fire alarm shop drawings can be used on the construction site. The DFM fire protection construction submittal approval will consist of a signed stamp on the cover sheet of the shop drawings and/or product data.

Appendix 2, MC-1370

<b>Fire Suppression and Standpipe Systems - Sprinkler work involving the alteration or addition of four or more sprinklers, standpipes, wet chemical, and/or CO2.</b>	Equipment, piping plans and hydraulic calculations submissions are per NFPA 13, NFPA 14, NFPA 17A Standard for the Installation of Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems, and NFPA 12 Standard for the Installation of Carbon Dioxide Extinguishing Systems as applicable.
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