




City of Phoenix

FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

Explanatory Policy – Quick-Response Sprinkler Head Replacement

SUBJECT: Replacement of Quick Response Sprinkler Heads	EFFECTIVE DATE: November 14, 2019
REFERENCES: The Phoenix Fire Code (2018 Edition) Section	REVIEW DATE: July 2024
APPROVED:	
 John Mertens, Fire Marshal	

Code:

1103.5.7 Installation of quick-response sprinkler heads in existing light hazard occupancy sprinkler systems being modified. Where existing occupancies and sprinkler systems are being remodeled or renovated, existing standard-response sprinkler heads shall be replaced with quick-response sprinkler heads as follows:

1. Where any tenant improvement, system repair or replacement is made to an existing fire area, existing standard-response sprinkler heads shall be replaced with quick-response sprinkler heads.
2. Where an existing system with standard-response sprinklers is being modified, the standard-response sprinkler heads shall be replaced with quick-response sprinkler heads throughout the tenant space, floor or suite. Where 50% of the floor sprinkler heads are replaced, all sprinkler heads on the entire floor shall be replaced with quick-response sprinkler heads.

Code Interpretation

The use of the guidelines in NFPA 13 for compartmentalization 13.3.3.6 is to be considered for coverage of ordinary hazard areas adjacent to the light hazard areas when considering the 50% of the floor threshold and interpreting installation of quick response sprinkler heads throughout the entire floor. The areas that qualify for ordinary hazard on a floor that meet the requirements for a compartment may remain with standard response sprinkler heads and do not need to be converted to quick response to meet the intent of 13.8.3.6.

The Phoenix Fire Department recognizes the benefits of quick response sprinkler heads in light hazard areas for life safety, property conservation and response times. The Fire Prevention Division recognizes that the latest version of NFPA 13 does not require this change out for work in a standard response



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served area. The requirements in IFC 1103.5.7 address the issues of changing requirements and installations through the historical code cycle and to improve the overall protection levels for the facility.

We do not require a mercantile to change out ordinary to quick response sprinkler heads on the sales floor when doing an office improvement, we do not ask for the mechanical and electrical rooms with separation space meeting the definition of a compartment that is an ordinary hazard use in accordance with the guidelines of 13.(A) 5.3.1 and (A) 5.3.2, to be changed to quick response.

3.3.6 Compartment. A space completely enclosed by walls and a ceiling. Each wall in the compartment is permitted to have openings to an adjoining space if the openings have a minimum lintel depth of 8 inches from the ceiling and the total width of the openings in each wall does not exceed 8 feet. A single opening of 36 inches, or less in width without a lintel is permitted when there are no other openings to adjoining spaces.