



**NASSAU COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL**

Nassau County Public Safety Center
1194 Prospect Avenue
Westbury, New York 11590
(516) 573-9900 / nassaucountyny.gov

Chief Fire Marshal
Scott D. Tusa

FIRE MARSHAL BULLETIN

December 30, 2015 (EFFECTIVE DATE)

To: Nassau County Fire Departments, Town / City / Village Building Departments, Business and Property Owners, and NCFM Licensed Fire Sprinkler Contractors

From: **Assistant Chief Fire Marshal Michael F. Uttaro - muttaro@nassaucountyny.gov**

Recent incidents have shown the extreme hazards presented to the public and the fire service by the practice of combining lightweight (truss) construction and the exemptions permitted within NFPA 13R, 'Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Residential Occupancies up to and Including Four Stories in Height'.

While the areas exempt from coverage (where sprinkler heads have been eliminated) are statistically unlikely to be the starting point for fires, if a fire does gain access to these areas, the ability of the sprinkler system and the fire department to control the spread of fire is significantly reduced.

In order to provide for the highest life safety protections, the following requirements are set forth for all R occupancies not within the scope of the Residential Code of NYS.

An approved automatic sprinkler system shall be provided in all new buildings with a Group R fire area in accordance with NFPA 13, including all concealed combustible spaces.

Exceptions to the requirement for sprinklers in concealed spaces (including combustible floor/ceiling or roof/ceiling spaces) are permitted by NFPA 13 where the space is:

- Of noncombustible or limited-combustible construction with minimal loading having no access.
- Of noncombustible and limited-combustible construction with limited access and not permitting occupancy or storage of combustibles.
- Formed by studs or joists with less than 6 in. between the inside or near edges of the studs or joists
- Formed by bar joists with less than 6 in. between the roof or floor deck and ceiling.
- Formed by ceilings attached directly to or within 6 in. of solid wood joist construction.

- Formed by ceilings directly attached to composite wood joists, provided joist channel is fire stopped into volumes not exceeding 160 ft³ using materials equivalent to the web construction.
- Entirely filled with noncombustible insulation.
- Entirely of fire-retardant treated lumber as defined by NFPA 703.
- Over isolated small rooms not exceeding 55 ft² in area.
- Created with rigid materials with an exposed surface having a flame spread rating of 25 or less.
- Of noncombustible construction having exposed combustible insulation where the heat content of the facing and substrate does not exceed 1000 BTU/ft²

Plans for proposed sprinkler installations must properly reflect the building construction details and proposed coverage for concealed areas.