



Informal Interpretation Report Number 7914



Date November 22, 2016

Edition 2014

Section 508, 903

Question:

1. With a Type IIIA, 5-story building, can we have R-2 occupancy on floors 1-3 with an NFPA 13R system, and I-1 occupancy on floors 4 and 5 with an NFPA 13 system? 2. Considering that the structural ratings will meet the requirements for both occupancies, will we be allowed to take the sprinkler height increase to 5 stories for the I-1 occupancy to bring the entire building into current compliance? 3. Considering the NFPA interpretation below regarding use of mixed systems and their compliance with the proper occupancy separations, and considering Section 903.1.1 ?STANDARDS. Sprinkler systems shall be designed and installed in accordance with Section 903.1.1.1, unless otherwise permitted by Sections 903.3.1.2 and 903.3.1.3?, where Table 508.4 for occupancy separations between R-2 and I-1 refers to footnote S, which refers to 903.3.1.1, does the code consider NFPA 13R a fully-sprinkled building, and would it allow the NFPA 13R on floors 1-3, R-2 occupancy in conjunction with NFPA 13 on floors 5-4, I-1 occupancy?

Answer

No. Please see the attached commentary

Commentary:

While it is true there may be situations where the mix is permissible such as hotel residential areas vs. assembly or commercial areas, in this case the increase in height is based on the entire building being sprinklered per the required NFPA system. In the case of the I-1 Occupancy, the height increase is based on a NFPA 13 system. The reference to Section 903.3.1.1 is not a "generic" reference, but specifically requires a NFPA 13 system. If a 13R system is permitted, the reference would be to 903.3.1.2. In addition, the use of a 13R system is limited to four stories. This building is 5 stories. The answer is to provide a NFPA 13 system throughout the building.

Notice:

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