



COLORADO SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT
 Division of the Fire Marshal
 Supplemental Ruling / Clarification

Number:	2010-1		
Subject:	Storage on shelving against walls in sprinkled and non-sprinkled buildings		
Reference:	2003 IFC 315.2.1: Ceiling clearance. Storage shall be maintained two feet (610 mm) or more below the ceiling in non-sprinkled areas of buildings or a minimum of 18 inches (457 mm) below sprinkler head deflectors in sprinkled areas of buildings.		
Effective Date:	05/01/2010	Issued By:	Jay Weightman, Fire Code Inspector
Approval Date:	04/29/2010	Approved By:	 Brett Lacey, Fire Marshal
Revision Date:		Revised By:	

PURPOSE:

To maintain consistency for allowable storage heights in sprinkled and non-sprinkled buildings.

SCOPE:

The provisions of this ruling shall apply to general storage practices. Exempted from this ruling are high piled storage, rack storage or specific design methods such as Factory Mutual Data Sheets designs or similar criteria.

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE:

The referenced code section requires two feet of horizontal clearance to the ceiling in non-sprinkled buildings and 18 inches horizontal clearance from the sprinkler deflector to storage in sprinkled buildings without exception. NFPA 13 Section A 8.6.6 allows for storage above the 18 inch plane of the deflector head along the perimeter walls of the storage area.

The fact that NFPA 13 allows storage to the ceiling along the perimeter of the room in sprinkled buildings, but that same exception does not apply to non-sprinkled buildings and has created confusion and inconsistency in application.

DECISION:

Where shelving is installed against walls, the shelves, including storage thereon, can extend to the ceiling in sprinkled or non-sprinkled buildings. However, for storage away from the wall, whether on shelves or not, must not be closer than two feet to the ceiling in non-sprinkled buildings, or no closer than 18 inches below the horizontal plane of the sprinkler deflector in sprinkled buildings when that room is protected with pendant or upright style heads. If there are sidewall style sprinkler heads present, the 18" rule must apply throughout the storage area.

Extreme caution must be taken in sprinkled buildings to ensure that the sprinkled heads are not subject to damage by storage. The fire inspector has the authority to over ride this ruling when in their opinion the storage configuration has potential to compromise the sprinkler system through obstruction or physical damage.