

**CHAPTER 1306**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION**  
**SPECIAL FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS**

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**1306.0010 GENERAL.**

This chapter authorizes optional provisions for the installation of on-premises fire suppression systems that may be adopted by a municipality in addition to the State Building Code. If the municipality adopts them, the sprinkler system requirements of this chapter become part of the State Building Code and are applicable throughout the municipality. This chapter, if adopted, must be adopted without amendment.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 16B.59; 16B.61; 16B.64*

**History:** *27 SR 1479*

**1306.0020 MUNICIPAL OPTION.**

Subpart 1. **Requirement.** The sprinkler system requirements of this chapter, if adopted, must be adopted with the selection of either subpart 2 or 3, without amendment.

Subp. 2. **Existing and new buildings.** Automatic sprinkler systems for new buildings, buildings increased in total floor area (including the existing building), or buildings in which the occupancy classification has changed, must be installed and maintained in operational condition within the structure. The requirements of this subpart apply to structures that fall within the occupancy classifications established in part 1306.0030, items A to E.

**Exceptions:**

1. The floor area of minor additions that do not increase the occupant load does not have to be figured into the square footage for occupancy classifications established in part 1306.0030, items A to E.
2. The existing portion of R-2 apartment occupancies, attached R-3 occupancies, and attached townhomes is not required to be sprinklered under this chapter.

Subp. 3. **New buildings.** Automatic sprinkler systems for new buildings, additions to existing buildings, or buildings in which the occupancy classification has changed must be installed and maintained in operational condition within the structure. The requirements of this subpart apply to structures that fall within the occupancy classifications established in part 1306.0030, items A to E.

**Exception:** The floor area of minor additions that do not increase the occupant load does not have to be figured into the square footage for occupancy classifications established in part 1306.0030, items A to E.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 16B.59; 16B.61; 16B.64*

**History:** *27 SR 1479*

**1306.0030 REQUIREMENTS.**

For purposes of this chapter, area separation, fire barriers, or fire walls do not establish separate buildings. Gross square footage (gsf) means the floor area as defined in the International Building Code. The floor area requirements established in items A to E are based on the gross square footage of the entire building and establish

thresholds for these requirements. The following occupancy groups must comply with sprinkler requirements of this chapter, unless specified otherwise:

- A. Group A-1, A-2, A-3, and A-4 occupancies;
- B. Group B, F, M, and S occupancies with 2,000 or more gross square feet of floor area or with three or more stories in height;
- C. Group E occupancies with 2,000 or more gross square feet of floor area or with two or more stories in height;
- D. Group E day care occupancies with an occupant load of 30 or more;
- E. Optional occupancy group-municipality may choose option 1 or option 2.
  1. Group R-1 and R-2 occupancies with 8,500 or more gross square feet of floor area or dwelling units or guestrooms on three or more floors; and attached R-3 occupancies and attached townhouses built to the International Residential Code with 8,500 or more gross square feet of floor area. All floors, basements, and garages are included in this floor area threshold.
  2. Attached R-3 occupancies and attached townhouses built to the International Residential Code with more than 16 dwelling units or more than three stories in height.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 16B.59; 16B.61; 16B.64*

**History:** *27 SR 1479*

#### 1306.0040 STANDARD.

Automatic sprinkler systems must comply with the applicable standard referenced in the State Building Code. If a public water supply is not available, the building official and fire chief shall approve the use of an alternate on-site source of water if the alternate source provides protection that is comparable to that provided by a public water supply. If an adequate alternate water supply sufficient for hose stream requirements is provided or available, the building official and fire chief may permit the water supply requirements for the hose stream demands to be modified.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 16B.59; 16B.61; 16B.64*

**History:** *27 SR 1479*

#### 1306.0050 SUBSTITUTE CONSTRUCTION.

The installation of an automatic sprinkler system, as required by this chapter, would still allow the substitution of one-hour fire-resistive construction as permitted by the International Building Code, Table 601, footnote d.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 16B.59; 16B.61; 16B.64*

**History:** *27 SR 1479*

#### 1306.0060 EXEMPTION.

The building official, with the concurrence of the fire official, may waive the requirements of this chapter if the application of water has been demonstrated to constitute a serious life, fire, or environmental hazard, or if the building does not have an adequate water supply and the building is surrounded by public ways or yards more than 60 feet wide on all sides.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 16B.59; 16B.61; 16B.64*

**History:** *27 SR 1479*

#### 1306.0070 REPORTING.

A municipality must submit a copy of the ordinance adopting this chapter to the Department of Administration, Building Codes and Standards Division, within 15 days of its adoption.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 16B.59; 16B.61; 16B.64*

**History:** *27 SR 1479*

#### 1306.0100 [Repealed, 27 SR 1479]