

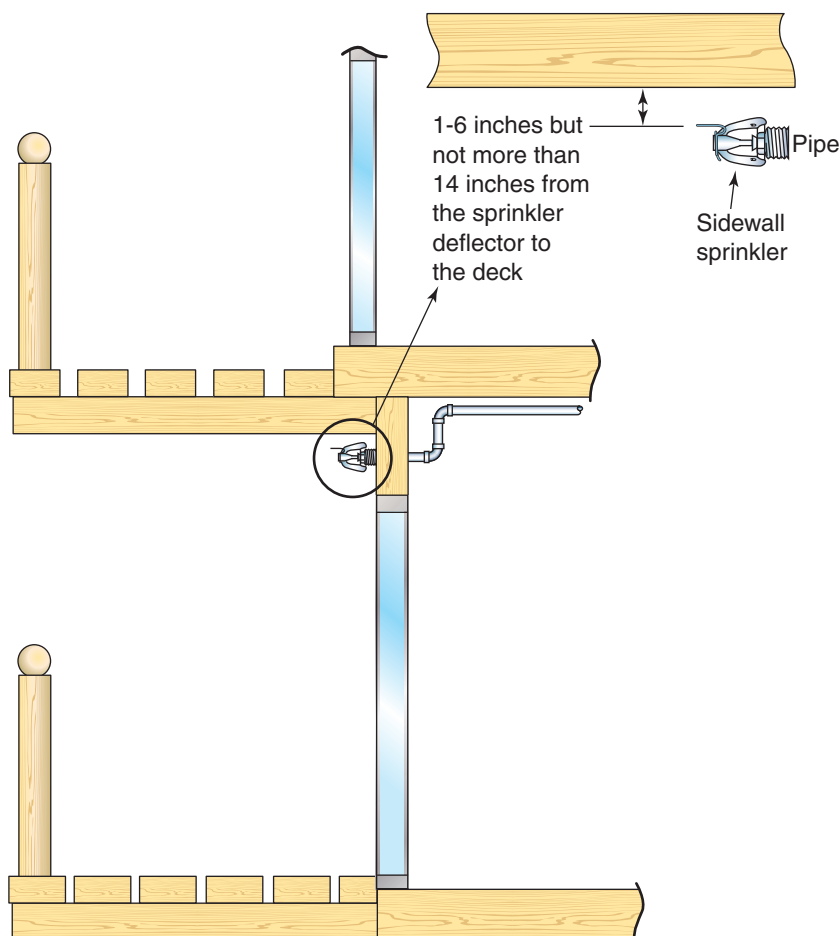
**CHANGE TYPE.** Modification

**CHANGE SUMMARY.** Requirements for automatic sprinklers protecting combustible exterior decks and balconies in a Group R-2 occupancy now require a combustible deck or roof above the sprinklers.

**2009 CODE: 903.3.1.2.1 Balconies and Decks.** Sprinkler protection shall be provided for exterior balconies, decks, and ground floor patios of dwelling units where the building is of Type V construction, provided there is a roof or deck above. Sidewall sprinklers that are used to protect such areas shall be permitted to be located such that their deflectors are within 1 inch (25 mm) to 6 inches (152 mm) below the structural members and a maximum distance of 14 inches (356 mm) below the deck of the exterior balconies and decks that are constructed of open wood joist construction.

**CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE.** Exterior balconies, wooden decks, and ground floor patios serving buildings of combustible (Type V) construction require automatic sprinkler protection in accordance with Section 903.3.1.2, which governs NFPA 13R automatic sprinkler systems. An NFPA 13R life safety automatic sprinkler system is designed for the protection of residential occupancies up to and including four

## 903.3.1.2.1 Balconies and Decks



stories in height. The system aids in the protection of the occupants by limiting the growth of an unwanted fire so that occupants can safely egress the building. Although NFPA 13R does not require sprinkler protection of open porches, balconies, or corridors that are attached to a building, Section 903.3.1.2.1 takes precedence and requires sprinkler protection at the indicated locations. This protection was warranted based on loss history from unattended cooking fires on Type V balconies in Group R-2 apartment occupancies. In many cases these fires extended to the wood structure and into the dwelling or attic spaces. Accordingly, the IFC membership required sprinklers at the locations prescribed in Section 903.3.1.2.1.

This code change clarifies that automatic sprinkler protection is required when there is a combustibile deck or balcony above the dwelling unit, such as found in a conventional apartment building or hotel of Type V construction. These areas are typically protected by side-wall-orientation automatic sprinklers. Section 903.3.1.2.1 specifies that the sprinkler deflector be located 1 to 6 inches below structural members and a maximum distance of 14 inches below a combustibile wood deck or balcony. Based on this revision, a dwelling unit with a balcony constructed on the top floor of a multiple-story Type V construction R-2 occupancy will not require sprinklers unless the roof or a canopy projects over the balcony.

**CHANGE TYPE.** Modification

**CHANGE SUMMARY.** Internally illuminated exit signs, including electrically powered, self-luminous, and photoluminescent signs, are now required to be listed and labeled per UL 924.

**2009 CODE: 1011.4 Internally Illuminated Exit Signs.** Internally illuminated Electrically powered, self-luminous, and photoluminescent exit signs shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 924 and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and Section 2702. Exit signs shall be illuminated at all times.

**CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE.** The technical criteria for internally illuminated exit signs have been revised to include self-luminous and photoluminescent exit signs. Internally illuminated signs include all exit signs that generate their own luminosity. Electrically powered exit signs, including LED (light-emitting diode), incandescent, fluorescent, and electroluminescent signs, in combination with those signs considered self-luminous and photoluminescent, represent the full range of product types currently in the market.

Although internally illuminated signs have previously been required to be listed and labeled, no specific criteria were established as to the appropriate conditions of the listing. UL 924, *Emergency Lighting and Power Equipment*, is now identified as the appropriate standard for the listing and labeling of such exit signs. This standard applies to emergency lighting and power equipment used in unclassified electrical locations and intended for connection to branch circuits of 600 volts or less. Such equipment is intended to automatically supply illumination, power, or both to critical areas and equipment in the event of failure of the electric utility power supply. All types of internally illuminated exit signs are now approved for use provided they are listed per UL 924.

## 1011.4

### Internally Illuminated Exit Signs



Internally illuminated exit sign.