

# 2009 IBC: Nonstructural Provisions Q&A

**903.2.8 Group R.** An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3 shall be provided throughout all buildings with a Group R fire area.

**Q:** Can a Group R-1 or R-2 occupancy be relieved of the requirement for sprinklers by separating units with either a 2-hour fire wall or a 2-hour horizontal assembly? Insofar as there is not any threshold for area size to that requirement we are confused as to that being a blanket requirement without possibility of relief.

**A:** No, regardless of the type of rating of separations (fire walls, fire barriers or horizontal separations), the fire areas would still contain Group R occupancies, and there is not an exception in the code that allows for a new Group R occupancy building not to be sprinkler protected. [\[9-8\]](#)