

SECTION 907 FIRE ALARM AND DETECTION SYSTEMS

907.2.1 Group A. A manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with Section 907.6 shall be installed in Group A occupancies having an occupant load of 300 or more. Portions of Group E occupancies occupied for assembly purposes shall be provided with a fire alarm system as required for the Group E occupancy.

Exception: Manual fire alarm boxes are not required where the building is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 and the occupant notification appliances will activate throughout the notification zones upon sprinkler water flow.

Q: Are all Group A occupancies required to have some form of a fire alarm system? As I read the IFC, it speaks of manual alarms being exempt if the building is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system and alarms activate upon sprinkler water flow. Or does the provision in this section only apply to Group A occupancies with an occupant load of 300 or more?

A: A manual fire alarm with an occupant notification system is only required when the occupant load in a Group A occupancy is 300 or more. The intent of the exception is to permit the removal of manual fire alarm boxes when the automatic sprinkler system is connected to the fire alarm control unit. Sprinkler water flow must activate occupant notification appliances to comply with the exception to Section 907.2.1.

Section 907.2.1.1 requires the installation of an emergency voice/alarm communication system when the occupant load in the Group A occupancy equals or exceeds 1,000. **[9-41]**