

**CHANGE TYPE:** Addition

**CHANGE SUMMARY:** This new section provides criteria for not installing sprinklers in bathrooms of specific Group R occupancies.

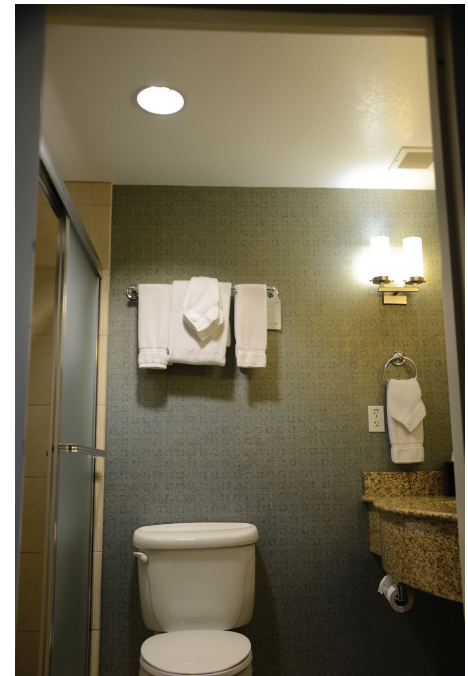
**2015 CODE: 903.3.1.1.2 Bathrooms.** In Group R occupancies, other than Group R-4 occupancies, sprinklers shall not be required in bathrooms that do not exceed 55 square feet (5 m<sup>2</sup>) in area and are located within individual dwelling units or sleeping units, provided that walls and ceilings, including the walls and ceilings behind a shower enclosure or tub, are of noncombustible or limited-combustible materials with a 15-minute thermal barrier rating.

**CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE:** Bathrooms have been exempted from the requirements of NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems from 1976 until the 2013 edition. However, the recently published NFPA 13-2013 (Section 8.15.8.1.1) allows the omission of sprinklers in bathrooms in hotels and motels only, not apartments. To maintain consistency with current practice, this section has been added to the IFC, reinstating the exception for sprinklers when bathrooms in Group R Division 1, 2 and 3 occupancies conform to all of the following:

- Do not exceed 55 square feet in area;
- Are located within individual dwelling units or sleeping units;
- Have walls and ceilings, including walls and ceilings behind any shower enclosure or tub, of noncombustible or limited-combustible materials with a 15-minute thermal barrier rating.

## 903.3.1.1.2

### Bathrooms Exempt from Sprinkler Requirements



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Bathroom less than 55 square feet