



Removal of Standpipe Cabinets in Buildings Complying with HFC Appendix J

(Automatic Sprinkler Systems in Existing High-Rise Buildings)

While attempting to comply with **Appendix J**, many high-rise buildings have removed previously required fire hose cabinets on floors that have been retrofitted with an approved automatic sprinkler system prior to the **building** being protected **throughout** with an automatic sprinkler system and without prior approval from the Fire Marshal's office. The Houston Fire Code and **NFPA 14** permit the removal of fire hose cabinets under the following conditions.

- The **building** is **protected throughout** with an automatic sprinkler system,
- Prior approval from The Fire Marshal's Office has been obtained,
- Class I standpipe hose connections are provided in accordance with Section 905 of the Houston Fire Code

The Fire Marshal's office recognizes high-rise buildings are being brought up to current codes with the installation of approved automatic sprinkler systems and understands this may negate the need for the hose cabinets. **However, the cabinets shall not be removed or altered without meeting the requirements listed above.**

Removing the hose cabinet will require the contracting party to obtain written approval from the Fire Marshal's office prior to the removal of the standpipe cabinet. The removal of the cabinet will only be considered once the **building** is protected throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system. This is necessary in order to ensure the proper coverage and connections are provided. The removal of 1 ½ hose (hose only) will require written approval from the Fire Marshal's Office and may be done when the **floor** is **fully protected** with an automatic sprinkler system.

Plans submitted and approved for retrofitting existing buildings with an approved automatic sprinkler system do not include approving the hose cabinets or hose removal.

High-rise building in the process of complying with Appendix J of the Houston Fire Code that have removed the hose cabinets prior to September of 2013 will not be subject to corrective action provided required coverage is present.

EXAMPLES

Class I – 2.5” hose connection intended for fire department use only. 2 1/2 in. (65 mm) and is equipped with a 2 1/2 in. × 1 1/2 in. (65 mm × 40 mm) reducer and a cap attached with a chain.



Class II – 1.5” hose connection (with hose) intended for occupant use only.



Class III – 1.5” hose connection (with hose) intended for occupant use only and a 2.5” connection intended for fire department use only.





The **Houston Fire Code** and **NFPA 14** permit the removal of fire hose cabinet under the following conditions:

- The building is **100% protected throughout** with an automatic sprinkler system.
- **Class I standpipe hose connections** are provided in accordance with **Section 905 of the Houston Fire Code** and **NFPA 14**,
- A letter from a licensed Fire protection Service Company stating, “The building in question meets the requirement of **NFPA 14** and **IFC section 905** for travel distance and coverage.”
- **Prior approval** from the Fire Marshal’s Office has been obtained.

• Building Management: _____

• Inspector: _____

• Sr. Inspector: _____

• Chief Inspector: _____