

REPLACE DAMAGED, CORRODED OR PAINTED FIRE SPRINKLERS/ FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION CAPS

CODE SECTIONS

International Fire Code 2006 Edition

901.6 Inspection, testing and maintenance. Fire detection, alarm and extinguishing systems shall be maintained in an operative condition at all times, and shall be replaced or repaired where defective. Non-required fire protection systems and equipment shall be inspected, tested and maintained or removed.

912.6 Inspection, testing and maintenance. All fire department connections shall be periodically inspected, tested and maintained in accordance with NFPA 25.

National Fire Protection Association Standard #13 2002 Edition

Section 6.2.6.2.2 Where sprinklers have had paint applied by other than the sprinkler manufacturer, they shall be replaced with new listed sprinklers of the same characteristics, including orifice size, thermal response, and water distribution.

EXPLANATION

No fire sprinkler may be painted unless the paint is applied by the manufacturer and has received a listing for the painted head. As a tenant or building owner, you may not paint the fire sprinkler heads for esthetic or corrosion resistance reasons.

RATIONALE

Fire sprinklers are designed by the manufacturer to meet specific operating criteria. If the manufacturer applies a paint coat, the fire sprinkler must still meet the operating criteria and has passed tests to verify this. When paint is applied to the fire sprinkler by an unauthorized process, the operational characteristics will change, thus possibly rendering the head ineffective. Paint could delay the activation of the fire sprinkler and can also change the spray pattern issued from the head.

Caps must be securely placed on the fire department connection inlets to inhibit tampering or vandalism of the device. Often times, objects such as paper, rocks, soda cans, or other obstructions are forced into the inlets which would then severely limit the Fire District's ability to utilize the fire sprinkler system to control a fire in your building.