

REDUCE STORAGE TO 24 INCHES BELOW CEILING OR 18 INCHES BELOW SPRINKLER HEADS

CODE SECTIONS

International Fire Code 2006 Edition

315.2.1 Ceiling clearance. Storage shall be maintained 2 feet (610 mm) or more below the ceiling in non-sprinklered areas of buildings or a minimum of 18 inches (457 mm) below sprinkler head deflectors in sprinklered areas of buildings.

EXPLANATION

All storage, regardless of the type, shall be kept at least 24 inches below a ceiling in non-sprinklered areas and at least 18 inches below the ceiling in sprinklered areas of the building.

RATIONALE

By keeping storage at least 24 inches below the ceiling in non-sprinklered buildings, the Fire District can direct water over the storage to reach the fire, and will also help to minimize the fire spread through the building.

In buildings equipped with automatic fire sprinklers, the storage must be kept at least 18 inches below the ceiling or the spray pattern issued from the sprinklers will be blocked by the storage, thus keeping water from reaching the fire.

However, in small storage rooms, storage may reach to the ceiling around the perimeter of the room if spray patterns are not obstructed.