

Information Bulletin

Sprinkler System Zoning in Contained Use Areas, Impeded Egress Zones and Care and Treatment Facilities

The City of Winnipeg interprets the requirements of Manitoba Building Code (MBC) Clauses 3.2.4.9.(2)(f), (g) & (h) for fire alarm system annunciation and zone indication requirements in contained use areas, impeded egress zones and Group B2/B3 fire compartments, as applicable to sprinkler flow switches.

Fire Alarm and Detection Systems
Annunciator and Zone Indication
MBC Sentence 3.2.4.9.(2)

2. Except as permitted in Sentence (6), the annunciator required by Sentence (1) shall have separate zone indication of the actuation of the alarm initiating devices in each
 - b) floor area so that the area of coverage for each zone is neither
 - i) more than one storey, nor
 - ii) more than the system area limits specified in NFPA 13, “Installation of Sprinkler Systems”
 - f) contained use area,
 - g) impeded egress zone, and
 - h) fire compartment required by Sentence 3.3.3.5.(2)

As stated in the Appendix A note to Article 3.2.4.9., a waterflow switch is considered to be an alarm initiating device and as such, the City of Winnipeg interprets Clauses 3.2.4.9.(2)(f), (g) & (h) as applicable to sprinkler waterflow switches as well as for the more obvious fire alarm system devices.

Via this interpretation, the sprinkler system in a B2 or B3 occupancy must have separate zones (i.e.: separate waterflow switches) for each required 3.3.3.5.(2) fire compartment. Sprinkler system zones in these fire compartment areas are limited to 1000 m², superseding the area limits described in NFPA 13, referenced in MBC Clause 3.2.4.9.(2)(b). It is not permissible for a sprinkler zone to supply sprinkler heads located in more than one such fire compartment.

Likewise, contained use areas and impeded egress zones will also require separate sprinkler zones.