

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION I-16-07

June 27, 2007

The following is offered in response to your June 20, 2007 letter to me in which you seek a formal interpretation of the requirements of Sections 901.2 and 901.6 of the 2003 International Building Code portion of the 2005 State Building Code.

Question: A new building (not a one- or two-family dwelling) is not required by the code to have an automatic fire sprinkler system. The owner wishes to install a sprinkler system voluntarily (not a limited area system). Does the code require a non-required sprinkler system to be monitored?

Answer: Yes. The Exception to Section 901.2 of the referenced code clearly states that any fire protection system that is not required by the code is permitted to be installed for partial or complete coverage provided that such system meets the requirements of this code. Since Section 901.6.1 requires monitoring of all sprinkler systems except those in one- or two-family dwellings or limited area systems, the system you describe must be monitored even though the system itself was not required by the code. The intent of the code is to prohibit installation of a sprinkler system that gives a false impression of properly installed protection.