

NFPA 13-2022 and P2025 Editions
Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems

TIA Log No.: 1768

Reference: 11.3.4.1.4 and 11.3.4.4

Comment Closing Date: February 15, 2024

Submitter: Kevin Hall, American Fire Sprinkler Association

www.nfpa.org/13

1. *Revise paragraph 11.3.4.1.4 to read as follows:*

11.3.4.1.4 11.3.4.4.1 Sidewall sprinklers shall be permitted to be installed on opposing or adjacent walls, provided no sprinkler is located within 12 ft (3.7 m) of the opposing sprinkler.

2. *Revise paragraph 11.3.4.4 to read as follows:*

11.3.4.4 Minimum Distance Between Sprinklers.

11.3.4.4.2 Sprinklers installed on the same wall shall be not located within ~~the maximum protection area~~ 8 ft (2.4 m) of any other sprinkler ~~unless the listing of the sprinkler requires a greater distance,~~ or unless required by 11.3.5.1.4.1, or unless separated by baffles that comply with the following:

- (1) Baffles shall be arranged to protect the actuating elements.
- (2) Baffles shall be of solid and rigid material that will stay in place before and during sprinkler operation.
- (3) Baffles shall be not less than 8 in. (200 mm) long and 6 in. (150 mm) high.
- (4) The tops of baffles shall extend between 2 in. and 3 in. (50 mm and 75 mm) above the deflectors.
- (5) The bottoms of baffles shall extend downward to a level at least even with the deflectors.

Substantiation: During the 2022 revision cycle, section 11.3.4.1.4 was revised to permit extended coverage sidewall sprinklers to be installed on opposing walls provided neither sprinkler was within 12 ft of the other. While located in the “Maximum Distance Between Sprinklers” section, this requirement is a minimum distance requirement and needs to be relocated as a subsection to 11.3.4.4 Minimum Distance Between Sprinklers.

Additionally, the language in existing section 11.3.4.1.4 directly conflicts with the requirements of existing section 11.3.4.4. Section 11.3.4.4 prohibits any sprinkler from being installed within the maximum protection area of any extended coverage sidewall sprinkler, regardless of the wall that it is installed on. To resolve the conflicting requirement, existing section 11.3.4.4 should only apply to sprinklers installed on the same wall, and the two existing sections should be relocated and renumbered as subsections to the header section 11.3.4.4 Minimum Distance Between Sprinklers.

The section as written would require a baffle in every installation that was not to the maximum listed spacing, regardless of the design flow and pressure chosen. Based on spray pattern data provided by a manufacturer, the minimum spacing between extended coverage sidewall sprinklers on the same wall should be 8 ft to correlate with residential sidewalls that have similar spray patterns.

Emergency Nature: The standard contains an error or an omission that was overlooked during

the regular revision process The NFPA standard contains a conflict within the NFPA Standard or within another NFPA Standard.

This TIA addresses a (1) correlating issue that should have been addressed during the 2022 revision cycle and also resolves a (2) conflict within NFPA 13.

- (1) Sections 11.3.4.1.4 and 11.3.4.4 contradict each other and need to be modified to correlate.
- (2) There is a minimum spacing requirement in the “Maximum Distance Between Sprinklers” section.

Anyone may submit a comment by the closing date indicated above. Please identify the TIA number, state whether you SUPPORT or OPPOSE the TIA along with your comment, and forward to the Secretary, Standards Council. [SUBMIT A COMMENT](#)