



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND FIRE DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 839966 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78283-3966



TO: San Antonio Fire Department and Development Services Department Associates
FROM: Christopher M Monestier, Deputy Fire Chief – SAFD, Fire Marshal
DATE: April 20, 2020
FILE: Code Interpretation Manual

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: CI2020-001

TITLE: NFPA 13: Air Venting Valves

CODE EDITION: 2018 International Fire Code (IFC), as adopted and amended by the City of San Antonio and 2016 NFPA 13 *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*

SECTION: 2018 IFC §903.3.1; NFPA 13 §§7.1.5, 8.16.6 and A.8.16.6

PURPOSE: To define and clarify air vent requirements

QUESTION 1: Is the requirement applicable to new wet pipe systems?

ANSWER: Yes, any new design and installation with metallic piping under 2016 NFPA 13 shall be provided with an air venting valve per NFPA 13 Section 7.1.5 and 8.16.6.

QUESTION 2: Is the requirement applicable to all modifications to wet pipe systems?

ANSWER: No, the intent is not to require air venting for minor system modifications such as sprinkler head relocations like those permitted under “*Twenty Heads or Less*” permits. Major modifications involving work that exceeds over 50% of the floor area will require the air vent to be installed in accordance with 2016 NFPA 13. The permit applicant is responsible for providing the square footage of the scope of work and the total floor area on the submittal.

QUESTION 3: Is the air venting valve required to be approved by a listing agency?

ANSWER: No. Per NFPA 13 Section 6.1.1.5, components that do not affect the performance, shall not be required to be listed. System performance is focused solely on the ability for water to be discharged from the sprinklers.



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND FIRE DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 839966 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78283-3966



QUESTION 4:

Is there a specific location for the air venting valve to be installed on a system?

ANSWER:

Yes. Air venting valve shall be either installed at the top of sprinkler riser or near a high point in the sprinkler system per 8.16.6.

QUESTION 5:

Is the air venting valve required to be accessible?

ANSWER:

Yes, for manual air venting valves. The air venting valve must be accessible and located no higher than 7ft above the floor. Automatic air venting valves are not required to comply with the accessibility requirement of manual air venting valves.

QUESTION 6:

What is required to be included on sprinkler plans utilizing an air venting valve?

ANSWER:

- a. Location of valve;
- b. Make or manufacturer; and
- c. Model number.

Christopher M. Monestier
Deputy Fire Chief
Fire Marshal
San Antonio Fire Department