



California State Fire Marshal CODE INTERPRETATION

Date Issued	12/28/2005	Interpretation #	05-023
Topic	Solid-ceiling sets and platforms		
Code Section(s)	2001 California Fire Code, Article 40, Section 4005.3		
Requested by	Chris M. Schiehl 100 Universal City Plaza Building 1360 2 nd Floor, Suite 205/206 Universal City, CA 91608		

Section 4005.3 Solid-ceiling Sets and Platforms – All interior solid-ceiling sets over 600 square feet (55.7 m²) in area shall be protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system. Platforms over 600 square feet in area and which exceed 3 feet in height shall be protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system.

EXCEPTIONS:

1. Approved and listed heat detectors shall be installed beneath solid-ceiling sets over 600 square feet in area and under platforms (when provided) over 600 square feet in area and which exceed 3 feet in height. Heat detectors shall be spaced 30 feet on center or as required by the manufacturer's installation instruction. Detectors shall be connected to an approved and listed central, proprietary or remote station service or a local alarm which will give an audible signal at a constantly attended location. Such system shall be installed in accordance with Article 10.
2. Sets with solid-ceilings over 600 square feet in area shall be positioned to allow for the operation of the automatic fire sprinkler system after filming has been completed for the day.

Our questions deal with the exceptions to this rule.

1. Are there any time limits (days, weeks, months, etc.) on using heat detectors in lieu of sprinklers?

No. There are no maximum time limits on using heat detectors in lieu of sprinklers.

- 2. Are we required to use Exception #1 (heat detectors) in conjunction with Exception #2 (positioning solid-ceiling sets to allow for the operation of the sprinklers after filming has been completed for the day), or are these exceptions separate from each other. (Either heat detectors OR raise the ceiling at the end of the day)?**

No. These exceptions are separate from each other.

- 3. Are heat detectors placed on stands and positioned on sets at the end of the day an acceptable form of protection?**

Yes. Heat detectors placed on stands and positioned on sets are an acceptable form of protection as they are intended to be a portable system.

- 4. Does Article 40 have a maximum size limit to a solid-ceiling set at which heat detection would not be an acceptable alternative?**

No. There is no maximum size limit to a solid-ceiling set.

- 5. Is the 600 square foot listed in the requirement cumulative (ie, if we have four sets on a sound stage and each one is 500 square feet, would we have to install fire protection on these individual sets)?**

The 600 square foot listed in the requirements of Section 4006.1 is cumulative for solid-ceiling sets unless the sets are separated from each other by a minimum distance of 20 feet.