



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	July 29, 2014	Interpretation	14-005
Topic	Pipe Joints Located Under Foundations		
Code Section(s)	NFPA 13- 10.6.5, NFPA 24- 10.6.5 as amended by California		
Requested by	Action Fire Systems Co, Inc. Tim Loewer, President		
Date Received	April 21, 2014		

Question: Is it the intent of the California amendment to the 2013 Editions of NFPA 13 and NFPA 24 Section 10.6.5 to restrict only mechanical joints from being installed under a foundation footing or all pipe joints, such as flanged fitting joint?

Answer: When the Office of the State Fire Marshal adopted the 2007 edition of NFPA 24, section 10.6.5 was amended and the intent of the amendment was to completely eliminate all joints in the sprinkler supply lines when the riser was located close to the foundation. When the 2010 edition of NFPA 24 was adopted, a second exception to Section 10.6.5 was added to allow for registered professional engineers to provide an alternate design with the approval from the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ). Based upon the code sections above, all pipe joints (mechanical, flanged, etc.) in the sprinkler supply lines are not allowed under building foundations or footings unless the requirements of 10.6.2 are met or a registered professional engineer provides an alternate design with the approval of the AHJ.