

CHAPTER 91

AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS IN NURSING HOMES

Note: Chapter 91 is entirely Seattle amendments to the *International Fire Code* and is not underlined.

Point of Information

The requirements of this chapter originated in City of Seattle Ordinance 94931, effective August 5, 1966.

SECTION 9101 SCOPE

9101.1 Nursing home defined. For the purpose of this chapter, the term “nursing home” means any home, place, or institution which operates or maintains facilities providing convalescent or chronic care, or both, for a period in excess of 24 consecutive hours for three or more patients not related by blood or marriage to the operator, who by reason of illness or infirmity are unable properly to care for themselves. Convalescent and chronic care may include, but is not limited to, any or all procedures commonly employed in waiting on the sick such as administration of medicines, preparation of dressings and bandages, and carrying out of treatment prescribed by a duly licensed practitioner of the healing arts. It may also include care of mentally incompetent persons if they do not require psychiatric treatment by or under the supervision of a physician specialized in the field of medicine. Nothing in this definition shall be construed to include general hospitals or other places which provide care and treatment for the acutely ill and maintain and operate facilities for major surgery or obstetrics, or both. Nothing in this definition shall be construed to include any boarding home, guest home, hotel or related institution which is held forth to the public as providing, and which is operated to give, only board, room and laundry to persons not in need of medical or nursing treatment or supervision, except in the case of temporary acute illness. The mere designation by the operator of any place or institution, which does not provide care for the acutely ill or maintain and operate facilities for major surgery or obstetrics, as a hospital, sanitarium, or similar name shall not exclude such place or institution from the provisions of Section 9102.

SECTION 9102 INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT

9102.1 Installation exceptions. *Approved* automatic fire sprinkler systems shall be installed in all usable rooms, corridors, and stairways of existing nursing homes with the following exceptions:

1. Nursing homes which are of Type I or II construction throughout, as defined in the Building Code.
2. Nursing homes not more than one story in height which have interiors with a one-hour fire resistance rating throughout.

SECTION 9103 CONFLICTS WITH LATER ADOPTED CODES

9103.1 Conflicts with Seattle Building and Seattle Fire Codes adopted after August 5, 1966. Where conflicts exist between the requirements of this chapter and Seattle Building Codes and Seattle Fire Codes adopted after August 5, 1966, the provisions of the later adopted code shall apply providing they are not less stringent.

