



**Boston Fire Department
Fire Prevention Division – Legal Unit
1010 Massachusetts Avenue – 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02118
Tel: 617-343-3022 Fax: 617-343-3696**

New Requirements for Antifreeze Solutions in Sprinkler Systems

On July 1, 2011 the Boston Fire Department was directed by the State Fire Marshal's Office to enforce the provisions of NFPA 25 published in March 2011, pertaining to the testing and replacement of noncompliant antifreeze solutions in existing antifreeze filled sprinkler systems.

Antifreeze solutions in sprinkler systems are required to be tested annually prior to the onset of freezing weather. If the sprinkler system in your facility utilizes antifreeze, you must contact your sprinkler service company to have the system tested for conformance with the updated standard. Existing sprinkler systems utilizing antifreeze solutions shall be tested to determine that it contains a permitted type of antifreeze in compliance with the requirements of NFPA 25. If upon successful initial testing, further testing in accordance with NFPA 25 shall be conducted to confirm proper antifreeze concentrations. All related test results fully documented, indicating compliance with the antifreeze requirements of NFPA 25 (March 2011 Edition), must be submitted to the Boston Fire Department by your sprinkler service company by October 1, 2011.

If the antifreeze solution is found to be one that is no longer allowed or cannot be reliably determined, the sprinkler service company shall submit forthwith a "notice of deficiency" to the BFD Fire Prevention Division for any systems deemed noncompliant. Additionally, the system shall be drained and filled as required under the new standard. All antifreeze solutions newly placed into existing fire sprinkler systems must be factory premixed by the antifreeze manufacturer at the proper concentration. The freeze point information from the antifreeze manufacturer or the generic information found in the Annex material of NFPA 25 (March, 2011 Edition) are to be followed to determine concentration. Owners of existing sprinkler systems requiring replacement and refilling of antifreeze solutions must have all related documentation submitted by your sprinkler service company, indicating compliance with the antifreeze requirements of NFPA 25 (March 2011 Edition), to the Boston Fire Department by October 1, 2011.

All records regarding sprinkler system inspection, testing and maintenance shall be maintained by the owner in accordance with the requirements of NFPA 25.

If this notice does not apply to your sprinkler system and you have received this letter by mistake, please contact the Fire Prevention Division at 617-343-3022 to arrange that your property can be removed from our database.

All testing and maintenance documentation regarding this matter can be sent to:

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For additional information, see www.nfpa.org or the Department of Fire Service's website under OSFM Advisories http://www.mass.gov/Eeops/docs/dfs/osfm/advisories/2011/20110701_antifreeze_use_in_fire_sprinkler_systems.pdf.