


<b>TECHNICAL BULLETIN</b> <b>CITY OF RALEIGH, N.C.</b> <a href="http://www.raleighnc.gov">www.raleighnc.gov</a>				<b>OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL</b>	
Subject		Bulletin #		SECTION	PAGE
<b>Fire Sprinkler Replacement</b> Maintenance Replacement of Existing Sprinklers Heads (Like for Like)		TB-16		901.6 NCFPC	1 of 2
				EFFECTIVE DATE	
				PREPARED BY	
				Office of the Fire Marshal	06/01/2019

**1.0 Purpose**

The purpose of this bulletin is to establish a procedure to govern the uniform replacement of painted/defective sprinkler heads, or those being removed for mandatory testing. The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that the replacement of sprinklers is done in a manner consistent with NFPA 25 and NC Fire Prevention Code requirements.

**2.0 Organization(s) Effected**

Raleigh Fire Department, Office of the Fire Marshal; City of Raleigh Development Services Department; Fire Sprinkler Contractors

**3.0 Definitions**

Like for Like – The sprinkler heads have the exact same K-Factor; orifice size; temperature rating; response time index rating (RTI); minimum pressure and flow requirements for residential and extended coverage sprinkler heads and are listed Quick Response for the same area as the original head.

**4.0 References**

North Carolina Fire Prevention Code;  
North Carolina General Statutes 160A-292, 160A-76, 143-138(e)  
NFPA 25, Current Adopted Edition, sections 5.4.1.2; 5.4.1.4; & 5.4.1.5.1

**4.0 Requirements**

Periodic “maintenance” replacement of existing sprinkler heads shall comply with the following:

- a. Only “Like-For-Like” replacements will be allowed without a permit.
- b. It shall be the responsibility of the licensed contractor to provide written documentation that the proposed replacement sprinkler is an exact replacement for the existing head.

- c. Documentation shall include: Existing sprinkler Brand, Model, Response type, Temperature, K-factor and size, as well as the manufacturer's specification sheet (if available). Replacement Sprinkler Brand, Model, Response type, Temperature, K-factor and size, as well as the manufacturer's specification sheet.
- d. Documentation shall be presented to the Fire Department Plan Reviewer at Development Services for approval prior to being sent to the field inspector for field verification. Option to contact the plan reviewer by phone followed up by emailing them the documentation.
- e. Field inspector shall verify through a special inspection, re-inspection or general inspection that the effected sprinkler(s) has been replaced in accordance with the NCFPC and NFPA 25.
- f. Contact field inspector (DFM) by phone when replaced sprinkler heads are ready to be inspected.

**6. Objective**

- a. To provide a consistent process to allow a licensed sprinkler contractor to replace sprinkler heads with the appropriate sprinkler replacement head without having to obtain a fire sprinkler permit in accordance with directive from North Carolina Office of the State Fire Marshal.