Senate Bill 405 signed by Governor Eric Holcomb effective July 1, 2020

Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb has signed Senate Bill 405 which clarifies that automatic fire sprinkler drawings are not required to be submitted for a State Construction Design Release (CDR) for any small installations or alterations on fire sprinkler systems, even if any other construction that is “a part of, supplemental to, or an accessory of” the project would otherwise require it. The effective date of this law is July 1, 2020.

This law was needed to help clarify interpretations being rendered by some state and local jurisdictions that required fire sprinkler drawings and hydraulic calculations to be submitted for fire sprinkler installations in some instances which involved as few as two or three sprinkler heads. These decisions were based upon 675 IAC 12-6-4 (d) Exemptions from design release requirements which stated “design release requirements including filing of plans and specifications shall apply for any work otherwise exempted by subsection (b) when a part of, supplemental to, or an accessory of a construction project that otherwise requires a design release.”

The new law provides clarification and states that “the design release requirements… do not apply for any construction that is otherwise exempted under 675 IAC 12-6-4(b), even if the construction is: (1) a part of; (2) supplemental to; or (3) an accessory of; any other construction that would otherwise require a design release.”

This new law was reviewed and approved by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security Executive Staff who testified in support of this bill at hearings during this past legislative session. The Indiana Chapter of the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) thanks all those who helped us pass this new legislation.

If you have any questions regarding this new law, please feel free to contact me.

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IC 22-15-3-3  Class 1 structures; construction; additions or alterations; qualification

(a) This section applies only to an application for a design release to construct:
   (1) A Class 1 structure with thirty thousand (30,000) or fewer cubic feet of space;
   (2) An addition to a Class 1 structure, if the addition adds thirty thousand (30,000) or fewer cubic feet of space;
   (3) An alteration to a Class 1 structure, if the alteration does not involve changes affecting the structural safety of the Class 1 structure; or
   (4) An installation or alteration of an automatic fire sprinkler system in a Class 1 structure by persons qualified pursuant to rules set forth by the fire prevention and building safety commission.

(b) The design release requirements under subsection (c) do not apply for any construction that is otherwise exempted under 675 IAC 12-6-4(b), even if the construction is:
   (1) a part of;
   (2) supplemental to; or
   (3) an accessory of;
   any other construction that would otherwise require a design release.

(c) To qualify for a design release under this section, an applicant must do the following:
   (1) Demonstrate, through the submission of plans and specifications for the construction covered by the application, that the construction will comply with all applicable building laws and fire safety laws.
   (2) Pay the fees set under IC 22-12-6-6.

General Administrative Rules

675 IAC 12-6-4 Exemptions from design release requirement

   Authority: IC 22-13-2-13
   Affected:  IC 4-21.5; IC 12-13-4-3; IC 22-15-3

(b) Design releases are necessary for the remodeling or altering of all Class 1 structures, except work limited to one (1) or more of the following:

(6) Fire sprinkler systems as follows:
   (A) Replacement of components of existing wet fire sprinkler system of light or ordinary hazard classification as defined in 675 IAC 13, including:
       (i) replacement of sprinkler heads;
       (ii) replacement of equipment; or
       (iii) replacement of piping to restore a system to its original condition and configuration.
   (B) Alteration of existing light hazard or ordinary hazard fire sprinkler systems, including:
       (i) the addition or alteration of up to an aggregate of twenty (20) sprinkler heads in a wet pipe system for light or ordinary hazard design;
What can I do in the event of a dispute?

Any person involved in a dispute with a county or municipality regarding the interpretation of a building or fire safety law may request that a written interpretation be issued by the State Building Commissioner. Pursuant to Indiana Code § 22-13-5-2, the State Building Commissioner shall issue a written interpretation of a building or fire safety law upon the written request of an interested person. A written interpretation issued under Indiana Code § 22-13-5-2 binds the interested person and the county or municipality with whom the interested person has the dispute. (See http://www.in.gov/dhs/4042.htm)

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