

	CITY OF AUSTIN FIRE DEPARTMENT-FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEERING SECTION	
	AFD Clarification on Isolation Pod and Phone Booth Fire Protection Requirements	
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		Revised:
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This document is intended to provide design professionals the most recent Austin Fire Department (AFD) clarification of the below referenced standard section(s) related to interior phone booths and privacy pods. This pertains to units that are either installed as permanent or mobile with or without utility connections (power, low voltage).

REFERENCES

NFPA 13 – 2022 Edition, Section 9.2.10 and Section A.9.2.10.1

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

These units will not require a fire alarm initiating or notification device regardless of size or installation configuration.

NFPA 13, § 9.2.10.1 states that ‘sprinklers shall not be required in small isolated temporarily occupied enclosures that do not extend to the ceiling’. Section 9.2.10.2 puts a maximum area of these enclosures of 24 square feet.

Section A.9.2.10.1 lists examples of small isolated temporarily occupied enclosures as testing booths, lactation rooms, phone booths/pods that are not used for storage. The annex does state that ‘isolated’ shall mean the units should not be located adjacent to each other and have a physical separation.

Given that the current enforced NFPA 13 standard does not contain this section, but there is clear and definitive language in a future published edition, AFD will enforce this section as an interpretation of requirements.

There is no dimension requirement similar to the longstanding 4’-0” obstruction rule, and determination of sprinkler requirements will be based solely off area of the pod. Cut sheets will need to be provided at both the plan review stage (PR) and the shop drawing review. The

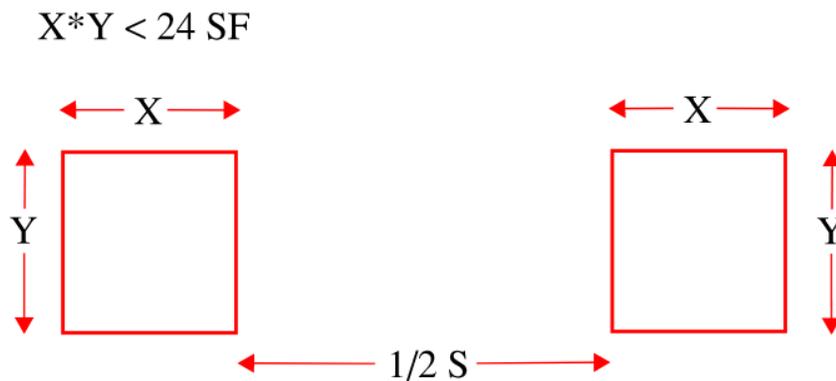
model being installed will need to be clearly indicated on the cut sheet. Blanket manufacturer product line literature will not be accepted.

AFD has determined that the physical separation distance between pods will be required to be half of the allowable sprinkler spacing, following guidance on the obstruction provisions of the standard. For a typical quick response, light hazard system the spacing between the adjacent faces of the pods will be 7'-6". Pods placed closer than this distance will be required to have sprinkler protection. Sprinkler spacing will be determined by the designed spacing of the system of the tenant or floor space in which the pods are located. Changing the spacing only of the sprinklers in the corridor or space in the vicinity of the pods will not be acceptable.

When sprinkler protection is required, a drop from the building's wet system will be required – not alternative "one-shot" extinguishing agents or systems will be acceptable.

EXAMPLES/DETAILS

When both of the following provisions are met, sprinklers will not be required in pods.



S = The listed spacing between sprinklers.

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