

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202  
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**Fire Sprinkler System Completion and Building Occupancy**

**Code:** 2018 Fire Prevention Code  
**Section:** 3314.1

**Date:** January 1, 2019

**Question #1:**

Can a building be occupied if the sprinkler system has not been completed?

**Answer #1:**

No, except as identified in Section 105.3.4 of the Fire Prevention Code, Section 3314.1 prohibits the occupancy of a building until the automatic sprinkler system has been tested and approved by the code official.

It should be noted that this section also applies to under-designed and partial systems required by the fire code. A sprinkler system that does not work as designed is required to be repaired in accordance with Section 901.4.2 or removed in accordance with Section 901.4.4 of the Fire Prevention Code.

**Question #2:**

Can an existing building be occupied if the sprinkler system is disabled due to repair?

**Answer #2:**

Yes, subject to the approval of the code official. Section 901.7 of the fire code allows the code official to either evacuate the building or provide a fire watch until the protection system is returned to service.