

INFORMAL CODE INTERPRETATION

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
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Sprinklers in Townhouses Separated by Two 1-hour Walls

Code: 2012 NC Residential Code

Date: July 24, 2012

Section: R313.1

Question:

In accordance with R313.1, Exception, townhouses may be constructed without a sprinkler system provided it is constructed with a common 2-hour fire-resistance-rated wall. Is the same exemption allowed if the townhouse units are separated by two 1-hour fire-resistance-rated walls?

Answer:

Yes. It is the intent of the code that townhouse units with a 2-hour separation are not required to be sprinklered. The two 1-hour rated walls are required to be rated from both sides.

Keywords:

firewall