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## FORMAL INTERPRETATION 99-09

**DOCUMENT:** 2000 Life Safety Code

**SUBJECT:** Sprinkler protection throughout  
Section 18.3.5.1 - LSC

**QUESTION:** Section 18.3.5.1 of the 2000 Life Safety Code requires all health care facilities to be protected throughout by an approved sprinkler system. Is it the intent of the code to sprinkle wardrobes, cabinets, lockers or similar components (no matter how they are labeled) when found in patient sleeping rooms, staff lounge/locker rooms etc?

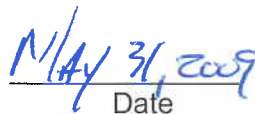
**ANSWER:** Yes

**COMMENTARY:** All areas used for storage, which are enclosed or recessed in building in building construction (such as wall pockets, alcoves) shall be sprinkled. However, there is an exception for storage spaces that do not exceed 2 feet in depth and a total of 6 square feet in area.

In applying this section, any enclosed storage space, whether part of the building construction or a fabricated unit installed within the building construction, is subject to suppression if the top and sides are not exposed into the room, thereby, protected by the suppression protection in that room.

In applying the exception, if the space is subdivided by permanent construction into areas not more than two (2) feet deep and six square feet in total area, the space need not be sprinkled. This includes multiple units with permanent interior subdivided areas or side by side units not exceeding the sizes listed above.

  
George E. Mann  
Deputy Commissioner

  
Date

Originated January 1999  
Revised May 2009