



NYC Buildings Department
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BUILDINGS BULLETIN 2010-011

Technical

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Purpose: This document clarifies the applicability of Building Code Chapter 9 to steel-plated and vault-like spaces.

Related Code/Zoning Section(s): BC 102.6
BC 903.2.10.4

Subject(s): Fire protection systems, automatic sprinkler systems, steel-plated and vault-like occupancies; Existing structures, alterations, steel-plated and vault-like occupancies

References: Department of Buildings Departmental Memorandum, dated January 28, 1980; Fire Department's Procedures for Buildings Protected by Steel Plates, dated April 10, 1981; Section BC 903.2.10.4

Section BC 102.6 states, in part with emphasis:

102.6 Existing structures. The legal occupancy of any existing structure shall be permitted to continue without change, except as is otherwise specifically provided or as is deemed necessary by the commissioner for the general safety and welfare of the occupants and the public...

Where an alteration to an existing space involves the installation of a steel-plated or similarly reinforced or secured vault-like interior in a building or portion thereof, in the interest of fire safety and the general safety and welfare of the occupants and the public, such alterations shall be subject to fire protection requirements in BC Chapter 9 and its referenced standards, including but not limited to section BC 903.2.10.4 that requires the installation of an automatic sprinkler system.

Exception: Steel-plated or vault-like spaces that are less than 20 cubic feet, or movable or rolling safes of any size shall not require the installation of an automatic sprinkler system.

For operational and installation requirements of steel-plated and vault-like spaces, refer to Departmental Memorandum, dated January 28, 1980 and Fire Department's Notice, dated April 10, 1981.