

**STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 13-Feb 03**

**CODE:** 2009 International Building Code

**SECTION:** 903.2.3 Group E Automatic sprinkler systems

**QUESTION:** Does SBCC [Interpretation 11-05](#) apply to an existing church with a new day care center (with occupant load of 15) being added?

**ANSWER:** **Yes, assuming the day care constitutes a change in occupancy. The rules governing licensed care inspection under WAC 212-12 treat the new day care as a new facility and apply the current code. The state building code treats the facility as an existing building.**

**Sprinklers are required in all Group E occupancies, other than the two limited exceptions listed: 1) portable school classrooms which may be clustered up to 5000 sq. ft., when separated as required by the building code; and, 2) Group E with an occupant load of 50 or less, as calculated in Table 1004.1.1.**

**The occupant load of the day care can be considered separately if a fire barrier is provided between the day care and the church. If there is not a fire barrier, the total occupant load of the building should be considered.**

**SUPERSEDES:** None. See also SBCC Interpretation 11-05.

**REQUESTED BY:** State Fire Marshal