



STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

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STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 08-09

CODE: 2006 International Building Code
2006 International Fire Code

SECTION: 903.2.1.6, Automatic Fire Sprinklers in Nightclubs
202, Definition of “*Nightclub*”

QUESTION: How do you determine if a space is “primarily used” for dancing or viewing performers? What would be the interpretation of “performers”? Would a karaoke singer be considered a performer? Would a piano bar be considered a nightclub? If live entertainment is only provided once or twice a week, would a facility be considered a nightclub?

ANSWER: **One of the defining criteria for “nightclub” is the floor area referenced in the definition. The floor area must be a concentrated use of standing space specifically designated and primarily used for dancing or viewing a performance and exceed 350 square feet. The nightclub fire sprinkler requirement is intended to apply to clubs similar to The Station Nightclub in Rhode Island, with a large number of occupants in a concentrated area. A restaurant, restaurant lounge, bar, tavern, club or similar area/facility with a piano bar or an area for a karaoke singer is not the type of use intended to be addressed by the nightclub sprinkler requirement.**

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUESTED BY: Benton County