



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
Fire Prevention Division

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Policy #: BFP-0004	Buildings of Undetermined Use: MSFC 903.3.1.4		
Reviewed and Approved By: Gene Dugal	Title: Fire Marshal	Effective Date: September 1, 2008	Revised Date:

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to clarify MSFC (07), section 903.3.1.4, concerning “Buildings of undetermined use.”

There have been numerous questions concerning the above amendment, specifically as to the type of occupancy the amendment applies to.

MSFC 903.3.1.4:

When fire sprinkler systems are required in buildings of undetermined use, they shall be designed and installed to have a sprinkler density of not less than that required for an Ordinary Hazard Group 2 use with a minimum design area of 3,000 square feet (279 m2).

Use is considered undetermined if not specified at the time a permit is issued. Where a subsequent occupancy requires a system with greater capability, it shall be the responsibility of the owner to upgrade the system to the required density for the new hazard, use or occupancy.

MSFC (07) Section 903.3.1.4 was intended to apply to “speculative” factory, warehouse and high-pile storage type occupancies; the final use of which was unknown at the time of construction. These occupancies could potentially provide storage for everything from pallets to high piled / rack storage of a wide variety of materials of varying hazards.

It was **NOT** the intent of this amendment (MSFC 903.3.1.4) to be applied to obvious speculative office space (Light Hazard) or strip shopping malls that are clearly mercantile (Ordinary Hazard) in design and function.