

Fire protection pre-cover inspection checklist

A fire protection pre-cover inspection is the hold point before concealed work disappears behind the next layer. This checklist is built for that walk: verify, photograph, then release the cover, not the other way around. Work is commonly verified against NFPA 13, NFPA 25. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction has adopted.

Who runs it: The sprinkler foreman with the GC's superintendent, releasing the area once the test is documented. When: After the branch lines and mains are complete and hydrostatically tested, before ceiling tile or hard lid closes the space above.

Hydrostatic test

- ☐ **Hydrostatic test pressure and duration held and recorded per zone**
Gauge reading photographed at the start and end of the hold, test log signed for the specific zone being covered. 2 photos required
- ☐ **Leaks and repairs re-tested before area is released**
Any joint that leaked during test re-tightened or repaired, with a documented re-test before cover. 1 photo required
- ☐ **Test gauge calibration current and gauge placed per the test plan**
Calibration tag or date on the test gauge photographed, gauge mounted at the point in the zone the test plan names. 1 photo required
- ☐ **Dry and preaction zones air tested where the system type calls for it**
On dry or preaction zones, air pressure held for the duration the test plan lists, with start and end gauge readings logged for that zone. No photo required
- ☐ **Test witness recorded on the test record**
Witness name, company and date entered on the test record, with the AHJ witness scheduled where the jurisdiction requires one. No photo required
- ☐ **Zones in unheated areas drained or heated after the test**
Freeze plan agreed with the super: water drained from zones that could freeze, or temporary heat confirmed running. No photo required

Clearance and obstructions

- ☐ **Sprinkler head clearance to ductwork, beams and light fixtures maintained**
Measured clearance from the head deflector to any obstruction above and beside it meets the required distance. 3 photos required
- ☐ **No obstruction placed directly beneath a head after rough-in**
Ductwork, cable tray or other trades' work installed after rough-in checked for shadowing beneath heads. 2 photos required
- ☐ **Pendent drops and sprigs restrained so they hold position**
Drops and armovers held by the restraint in the hanger detail, no swing when pushed so the head stays centered in the tile. 1 photo required

Concealed spaces and release

- ☐ **Rated penetrations firestopped with the listed system**
Sealant or device at each rated wall or floor matches the listed system for that pipe type, label or submittal cross-checked. 1 photo required
- ☐ **Concealed spaces checked against the drawings for heads**
Each attic, soffit or above-ceiling space checked against the drawings; where it is shown sprinklered, heads are installed and connected before cover. 1 photo required

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| ☐ | Routing and valve locations above the ceiling photographed
Mains, offsets and concealed valves photographed per zone and any field change redlined on the as-built set before cover. | 2 photos required |
| ☐ | Zone released for ceiling cover confirmed with the super
Written release only after that zone's test record and clearance items are complete; ceiling crews told which zones still have drops to cut or heads to move. | No photo required |