

NFPA 13

National Fire Protection Association

NFPA 13 governs how a sprinkler system is installed: what heads go where, how the pipe is supported, and what may not obstruct a spray pattern. Almost every sprinkler rough-in rejection traces back to spacing, obstruction or hanger detail.

What it covers

- Head type, temperature rating and spacing
- Pipe support, hanger spacing and seismic bracing
- Obstruction and clearance to storage or ceilings
- Hydrostatic testing of installed piping

What a field inspection looks at

- Rough-in photographed above ceiling before tile goes in: hangers, bracing and head drops together.
- Obstructions shown in context, with the offending duct or light in the same frame.
- Hydrostatic gauge photographed with the pressure and the clock visible.

Adoption varies by jurisdiction. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction enforces before you run a walk against it.