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## MEMORANDUM

TO: HRM Building Officials **and external stakeholders**  
CC: Conor O'Dea, Kelly Denty  
FROM: Sergio Grbac Acting Manager Building Standards  
DATE: May 1, 2020  
SUBJECT: **Interpretation on the availability of fire protection equipment 3.2.5.9.(5)(c)  
NSBC**

Attention Colleagues,

In light of a recent decision by the NSBAC (NS Building Advisory Committee on April 29, 2020) HRM Building Standards has circulated this interpretation to A-3.2.5.9.(5)(c).

The NSBAC decision toward an appeal in reference to the application of 3.2.5.9 (5)(c) in effect has interpreted the word “available” as being interchangeable with the word “availability” and they refer to the appendix notes A-3.2.5.9.(5)(c) (*Fire Department Pumping Equipment. Availability of appropriate pumping equipment from the local fire department or, in the case of industrial plants or complexes, from their fire brigade, is considered sufficient to meet the intent of this requirement.*) to support the decision. The decision also found that 3.2.5.9 (5)(c) should not be interpreted as requiring reliance on the delivery of the fire protection equipment to the building in order to comply with the pressure requirements, only that the availability of such equipment exists

HRM Building Officials shall also apply the above interpretation of this code section whenever the section is relevant to any building under review.

### **3.2.5.9. Standpipe System Design**

- 1) Except as provided in Sentences (2) to (6), Articles 3.2.5.10. and 3.2.5.11., and Sentence 3.2.4.9.(2), the design, construction, installation and testing of a standpipe system shall conform to NFPA 14, “Installation of Standpipe and Hose Systems.”
  - 2) A dry standpipe that is not connected to a water supply shall not be considered as fulfilling the requirements of this Article.
  - 3) If more than one standpipe is provided, the total water supply need not be more than 30 L/s.
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- 4) A standpipe need not be installed in a *storage garage* conforming to Article 3.2.2.90., provided the *building* is not more than 15 m high.
- 5) The residual water pressure at the design flow rate at the topmost hose connection of a standpipe system that is required to be installed in a *building* is permitted to be less than 690 kPa provided
- a) the *building* is *sprinklered* throughout,
  - b) the water supply at the base of the sprinkler riser is capable of meeting, without a fire pump, the design flow rate and pressure demand of the sprinkler system, including the inside and outside hose allowance, and
  - c) fire protection equipment is available to deliver, by means of the fire department connection, the full demand flow rate at a residual water pressure of 690 kPa at the topmost hose connection of the standpipe system (see Note A-3.2.5.9.(5)(c)).
- 6) A fire department connection shall be provided for every standpipe system.

Further enquiries can be directed to your HRM Building Official or:

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