

CHAPTER 9 FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS

SECTION [F] 905.3.1, EXCEPTION 1

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[F] 905.3.1 Building height. Class III standpipe systems shall be installed throughout buildings where the floor level of the highest story is located more than 30 feet (9144 mm) above the lowest level of the fire department vehicle access, or where the floor level of the lowest story is located more than 30 feet (9144 mm) below the highest level of fire department vehicle access.

Exceptions:

1. Class I standpipes are allowed in buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.
2. Class I manual standpipes are allowed in open parking garages where the highest floor is located not more than 150 feet (45 720 mm) above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access.
3. Class I manual dry standpipes are allowed in open parking garages that are subject to freezing temperatures, provided that the hose connections are located as required for Class II standpipes in accordance with Section 905.5.
4. Class I standpipes are allowed in basements equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system.



Q: Can a manual wet type water supply system be used in a Class I standpipe in a building that is not classified as a high-rise building?

A: Yes. Exception 1 to Section 905.3.1 permits the use of a Class I standpipe system in lieu of a Class III standpipe system when the building is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system. However, Exception 1 does not stipulate a specific type of standpipe that must be used. The exception simply permits the use of a Class I standpipe. NFPA 14, as referenced in Section 905.2, provides specific design and installation requirements. A Class I standpipe system is intended for use by fire departments and trained personnel. A manual wet standpipe system requires the use of fire department equipment to pump water into the system to meet the demands put on the system.