

## Automatic Sprinkler Systems

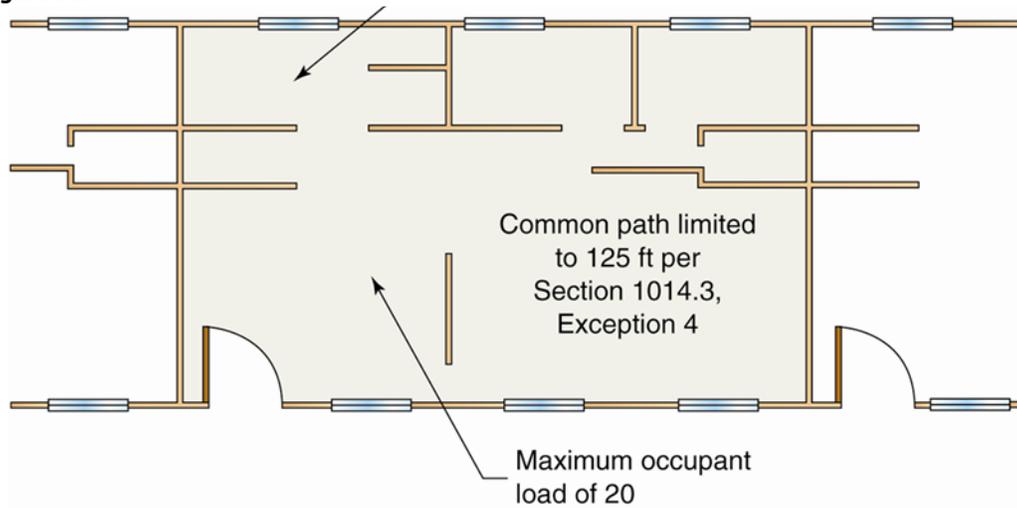
Section Title: Group E		
2006	2009	2012
	<p><b>903.2.3 The fire area threshold limit for the installation of an automatic sprinkler system was reduced from 20,000 square feet to 12,000 square feet which now treats the fire hazards associated with Group E occupancies equally with other occupancies with similar fuel loads and hazards such as Group F-1, S-1 and M occupancies. The requirement for the installation of an automatic sprinkler system at a lower threshold will allow design professionals to take advantage of IBC and IFC-permitted trade-ups and credits, which should reduce the cost per square foot of constructing Group E occupancies.</b></p>	



Group E occupancies have seen a reduction in fire area as it relates to fire sprinkler systems. The 2009 IBC now establishes a threshold of 12,000 square feet (1114.863 m<sup>2</sup>) down from 20,000 (1858.060 m<sup>2</sup>). The reduction falls in line with other similar occupancies for maximum fire areas. Fire areas shall be separated from each other by a minimum of 2-hour fire barriers.

**Figure 30:**



**Figure 54:****Single means of egress in Group R-2**

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

At 200 square feet per occupant based on Table 1004.1, a single means of egress was permitted only for those Group R-2 occupancies that were 2,000 square feet (185.806 m<sup>2</sup>) or less in floor area. The 2009 IBC has established the threshold of 20 where an automatic sprinkler system is provided. Section 903.2.8 requires an automatic sprinkler system in all Group R fire areas.