



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Department of Fire Services*

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SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Heads of Fire Department
FROM: Stephen D. Coan, State Fire Marshal
DATE: March 1, 2013
RE: BBRS Interpretation

The Board of Building Regulations and Standards has issued several official interpretations regarding sprinkler requirements.

One interpretation of particular importance deals with the use of anti-freeze in sprinkler systems. This interpretation would allow the use of anti-freeze in compliance with the 2013 edition of NFPA 13 for the use of anti-freeze requirements, but the 2007 edition for the installation requirements.

The 2013 edition allows for the use of listed antifreeze to be used. However, we are not aware of any such listed antifreeze that is currently available. These conditions effectively ban the use of antifreeze until such a listed product exists. Please review the entire advisory for all the specifics relating to antifreeze.

We are passing this information on to you. You can also view official interpretations of the BBRS at: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/consumer-prot-and-bus-lic/license-type/buildings/official-building-code-interpretations/>

If you have any questions please contact the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit at (978) 567-3375 or in Western, MA (413) 587-3181.