

## **Revised Residential Sprinkler Requirements Become Effective**

In January 2000, the Standard for Residential Sprinklers for Fire Protection Service, UL1626 was revised to include new requirements involving the fire test method and water flow rates that become effective July 12, 2002. The revised fire test method provides for an enhanced evaluation of the fire control effectiveness of UL Listed residential sprinklers. The modified test method considers the variability of fire challenges in the field and the level of protection required by the National Fire Protection Association Technical Committee for Residential Sprinkler Systems.

A new minimum water flow rate requirement was also specified for all residential sprinklers. A discharge density of  $0.05 \text{ gpm/ft}^2$  was established as the minimum residential sprinkler rate, after considering all available information and data including the (1) installation cost for sprinkler systems in single family dwelling units, (2) need for increased usage of residential sprinklers to save lives and property and (3) excellent performance of these products in the field. Several manufacturers currently produce residential sprinklers that have demonstrated compliance with UL's new requirements. All UL Listed residential sprinklers produced after July 12, 2002 will be required to comply with the revised standard.

The Standards for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in (1) One-and -Two Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes, NFPA 13D, and (2) Residential Occupancies up to and including Four Stories in Height, NFPA 13R are scheduled for adoption at the May 2002 NFPA Annual Meeting. Proposed revisions to these NFPA installation standards include the minimum  $0.05 \text{ gpm/ft}^2$  discharge density requirement. Sprinkler system designers should be aware of these changes in requirements when designing new sprinkler systems. Authorities having jurisdiction should be aware of these changes in requirements when evaluating new residential sprinkler systems installed after adoption of the revised NFPA Standards.