

Table 903.1 – Automatic Fire Sprinkler System Requirements for NEW CONSTRUCTION

STRUCTURE TYPE	SPRINKLERS REQUIRED ²	DESCRIPTION	SQUARE FOOTAGE ¹		MIN. DISTANCES BETWEEN STRUCTURES AND PROPERTY LINES (PL)	REQUIREMENTS	USE EXAMPLES	EXCEPTIONS
			MIN	MAX				
New Construction	Yes	New buildings including mobile homes and commercial coaches ¹	0		Per CBC, CRC	Throughout new buildings	All new construction and dwellings	Exceptions 2, 3, 4
Residential Accessory Structure	Yes	Accessory structures as defined in CRC	1,000	3,000	50 feet from PL 30' between any structures on site	No heating, cooling, living or sleeping spaces	One story garage, workshop, studio, residential storage bldg.	Exception 1
Agricultural Structure	Yes	Accessory to agricultural operation, livestock, crops. Agricultural operations in accordance with AG LUO & CBC definition	3,000	5,000	100 feet from PL, 50 feet from other structures	Primary usage must be 75% livestock or crops	One story barn or stables	Exception 1
Pole barn, Covered arena, Greenhouse	No	One story hay storage, covered riding arena, greenhouses	Unlimited if 60 feet on all sides per CBC		100 feet from PL, 50 feet from other structures	No public use or access	See description	None
Agricultural Exempt (no permit required)	No	LUO Ag Exempt & signed affidavit	0	3,000	100 feet from PL, 50 feet from other structures	Per Ag Exempt agreement	Ag-Barn on Ag zoned land over 20 acres	See Title 19

References:

CRC: California Residential Code | **CFC:** California Fire Code | **CBC:** California Building Code | **LUO:** Land Use Ordinance (San Luis Obispo County)

Footnotes:

¹ For the purpose of calculating square footage for the application of fire sprinkler requirements and fire flow requirements, the floor area shall include all combustible areas attached to the structure, including garages, patio covers, overhangs over 2 feet, covered walkways and decks.

² Automatic Fire Sprinklers installed at exterior locations shall be approved corrosion resistant devices when environmental or operational conditions warrant.

Exceptions:

1. Structures between the minimum and the maximum square footage must meet all the above table criteria and all the following are required in lieu of fire sprinklers: ▪ no conditioned or habitable space, ▪ no second stories (lofts 1/3 the floor area and open to below are allowed), ▪ minimum two exits including one pedestrian door (side hinge swinging door), ▪ workshops or offices limited to 10% of floor area, ▪ dedicated fire water storage minimum of 5,000 gallons steel tank in full compliance with NFPA 1142 (see fire safety plan) if there is no community provided fire hydrant within 500 ft., ▪ structure complies with the California Wildland Urban-Interface Ignition Resistant Construction Requirements, ▪ heat detectors installed in accordance with CBC linked to an audible bell mounted in the exterior of the structure. ▪ Cannot be used as a place of employment or for public assemblage/events. ▪ Cannot be used as a commercial building.

2. A single-story building or commercial coach where floor area does not exceed 1000 square feet and the occupancy is not a Group A, E Daycare, F1 Woodworking, group R, Group H, Group I occupancy or any occupancy where cellulose nitrate film, pyroxylin plastics or any hazardous materials manufactured, stored or handled in quantities in excess of Tables in CBC, CFC or within Los Osos CSD and the fire flow from a hydrant is less than 750gpm at 20psi.

3. Mobile/manufactured or factory-built homes or commercial coaches constructed or altered on or before March 12, 2011 which were not manufactured with automatic fire sprinklers.

4. Accessory dwelling units shall not be required to provide fire sprinklers if they are not required for the primary residence.