

CHAPTER 9: FIRE PROTECTION AND LIFE SAFETY SYSTEMS

[F] 903.2.4.1 Woodworking operations.

An *automatic sprinkler system* shall be provided throughout all Group F-1 occupancy *fire areas* that contain woodworking operations in excess of 2,500 square feet (232 m²) in area that generate finely divided combustible waste or use finely divided combustible materials.

❖ Because of the potential amount of combustible dust that could be generated during woodworking operations, an automatic sprinkler system is required throughout a fire area when it contains a woodworking operation that exceeds 2,500 square feet (232 m²) in area. Facilities where woodworking operations take place, such as cabinet making, are considered Group F-1 occupancies. The intent of the phrase “finely divided combustible waste” is to describe particle concentrations that are in the explosive range (see [Chapter 22](#) of the *IFC* for discussion of dust-producing operations).

The extent of sprinkler coverage is only intended to be for the Group F-1 occupancy involved in the woodworking activity. If the fire area is larger than 2,500 square feet (232 m²) but the woodworking area is 2,500 square feet (232 m²) or less, sprinklers are not required. It is not the intent to require the installation of sprinklers throughout the building but rather in the fire area where the hazard may be present.