



# HARRIS COUNTY CODEWORD



**Issue Date:** June 28, 2010

**Subject:** High Volume Low Speed (HVLS) Fans in Sprinkled Buildings.

**Question:** Does Harris County allow HVLS fans in fully sprinkled buildings?

**Answer:** Yes. HVLS fans are allowed in buildings that are equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system as described below. This applies to both new construction reviewed and inspected under the Harris County Fire Code, and existing buildings reviewed and inspected under Local Government Code 352,

1. HVLS fans are permitted in rack storage and palletized storage arrangements up to twenty (20) feet in height in buildings with thirty (30) feet or less ceiling clearance, when Early Suppression Fast Response (ESFR) sprinklers are used to protect the storage array.
2. HVLS fans are permitted in light-hazard and ordinary-hazard occupancies as defined in NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*.
3. HVLS fans are permitted in sprinkled areas with palletized storage up to twelve (12) feet in height protected by control mode sprinklers.

In all cases, HVLS fans are required to be designed and installed to shut down automatically on any fire alarm signal. This includes automatic shut down sprinkler system water-flow alarm or manual or automatic fire alarm detection device provided in the space.

Any other use of HVLS fans in sprinkled buildings will be considered Performance Based Design to be reviewed and approved by the Building Official and Fire Official.

Building Official  
Harris County, Texas

Fire Marshal  
Harris County, Texas