



# QUICK RESPONSE

*Saving life and property through effective licensing, plan review,  
and inspection of fire protection systems.*

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## Protective Caps and Straps

To minimize damage to a sprinkler head during shipping, handling and installation, one of the listing criteria is the requirement for **protective straps** or **caps** on all glass bulb sprinklers. The extra protection was intended to call attention to the need to handle sprinklers with care during shipping and installation. These protective devices should remain in place as long as practicable. Failure to maintain the protective devices where provided may allow damage to occur to the thermal sensing element with increasing risk of the sprinkler failing to activate in a fire or causing the sprinkler to activate prematurely.



In general, **protective caps** and **straps** should not be removed until construction activities or other events have progressed to the point where the sprinklers will not be subjected to conditions that could cause them to be damaged. Where installation of mechanical services or other construction work is expected to take place following the installation of sprinklers, consideration should be given to leaving protective devices in place until such time as the water supply is made available to the sprinklers for purposes of fire protection. **Protective caps and straps** on sidewall and pendent sprinklers, for example, should be left in place pending installation of the wall and ceiling systems and then removed as finish escutcheons are being installed.



For upright sprinklers, sprinklers fitted with sprinkler guards, and sprinklers installed more than 10-feet above the floor, protective devices are permitted to be removed from the sprinklers immediately following their installation.



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