



QUICK RESPONSE

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

October 2008

FIRE PUMPS – JOCKEY PUMP

A **jockey pump**, also known as a pressure maintenance pump, maintains the pressure in the fire sprinkler system to avoid non-emergency starting of the main fire pump. This keeps the main fire pump from short cycling, which shortens its life span. The **jockey pump** is designed to start before the main fire pump and return the fire protection system to its minimum static pressure. However, it is not designed to keep up with the system demand in regard to flow. In this case, the system pressure will continue to decrease until the main fire pump starts.

A **jockey pump** is not required on systems utilizing a fire pump, however, due to their relative simplicity, **jockey pumps** are the most common method used to maintain system pressure. Since **jockey pumps** are not required to be listed, any pump capable of producing necessary pressure is acceptable.

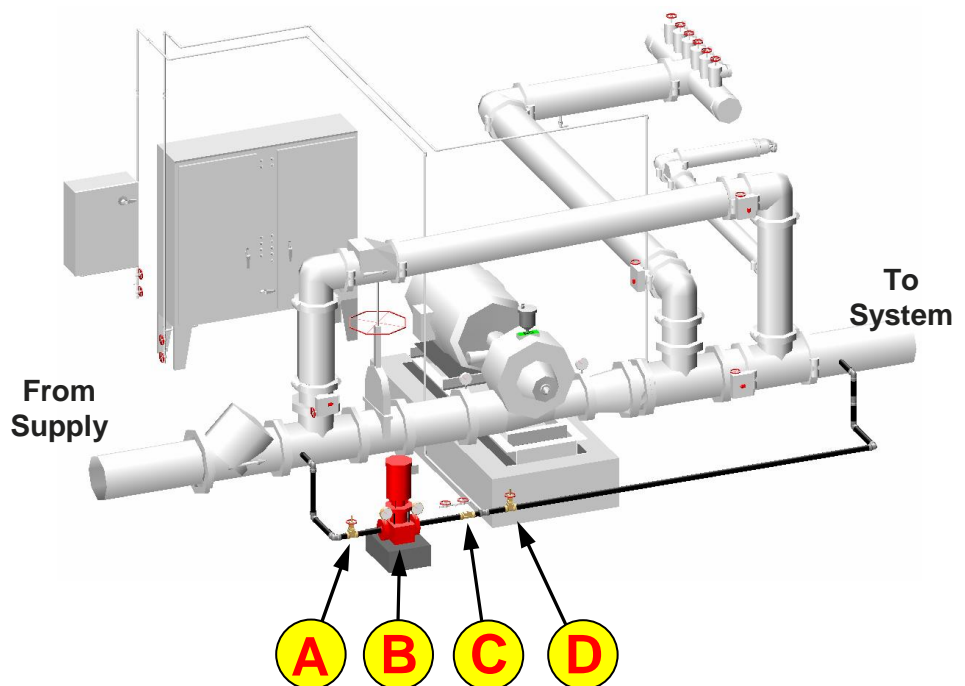
Except for no test header requirement, a **jockey pump** has the same basic components as the main fire pump. Since the **jockey pump** is not required to be listed, the control valves and check valve are not required to be listed. Section 903.4 of the Minnesota State Fire Code requires **jockey pump** control valves to either be electrically supervised, sealed or locked in the open position.

A = Control Valve (required) –
This valve must be an OS&Y.

B = Jockey Pump

C = Check Valve (required) –
To prevent water from flowing back into the pump, a check valve is required on the discharge side of the pump.

D = Control Valve (required) –
This control valve is installed to allow the **jockey pump** to be isolated for maintenance purposes. This valve may be an OS&Y or butterfly type.



Quick Response is presented monthly by the
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