

International SprinklerScene

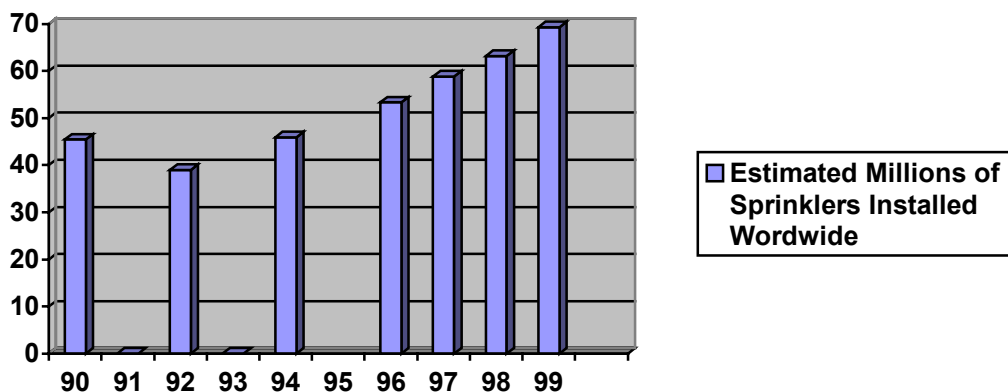
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World Sprinkler Market Estimated at Nearly 70 Million

The International Fire Sprinkler Association has revived the survey of the world sprinkler market, recently completing the first such survey since 1996. The total number of sprinklers installed in 1999 was estimated to be 69.3 million, a record and an increase of 30 percent since 1996.

The survey was conducted by asking a selected group of knowledgeable individuals to provide their best estimate of sprinkler usage around the world, weighting the opinions based on the confidence level of the submitter. The survey asked for estimates for 1997, 1998 and 1999.



The survey results are reported on the following page for 25 geographical areas. The North American market remains the largest, and accounts for the 63 percent of total sprinkler usage, up from 61 percent in 1996.

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Total Sprinkler Usage by Continent

	1996 Estimate		1999 Estimate	
North America	32.65	(61%)	43.7	(63%)
Asia and Pacific	11.7	(22%)	14.4	(21%)
Europe and Mideast	6.4	(12%)	8.1	(12%)
Central and South America	1.35	(3%)	1.6	(2%)
Australia/NZ	0.78	(1%)	0.9	(1%)
Africa	0.45	(1%)	0.6	(1%)
	<u>53.33</u>		<u>69.3</u>	

Estimated Number of Installed Sprinklers (in millions)

Market Area	1997 Estimate	1998 Estimate	1999 Estimate	Continent 3-year change from 1996
1. Canada	1.9	1.8	2.5	
2. Mexico	0.6	0.6	0.7	
3. United States	33.7	36.8	40.5	43.7 (up 34%)
4. Central America (inc. Carib.)	0.5	0.5	0.6	
5. South America	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.6 (up 18%)
6. United Kingdom	1.1	1.0	1.2	
7. Germany	1.3	1.4	1.4	
8. France	0.7	0.7	0.8	
9. Scandinavian Countries (Nor., Swe., Den, and Fin.)	0.5	0.5	0.6	
10. Italy	0.4	0.4	0.5	
11. Low Countries (Belg., Neth, and Lux.)	0.5	0.5	0.5	
12. Austria and Switzerland	0.3	0.3	0.4	
13. Spain and Portugal	0.3	0.4	0.5	
14. CIS (former Soviet Union)	0.5	0.5	0.5	
15. Israel	0.7	0.8	1.0	
16. Other European / Mid-East	0.5	0.6	0.7	8.1 (up 27%)
17. China (inc. Hong Kong)	4.9	5.9	6.7	
18. Japan	3.1	2.8	2.7	
19. Korea	1.9	1.9	1.8	
20. Singapore and Malaysia	0.9	1.0	1.0	
21. Taiwan	1.0	1.1	1.0	
22. Other Asian and Pacific	1.2	1.3	1.2	14.4 (up 23%)
23. Africa (inc. Eygpt)	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6 (up 33%)
24. Australia	0.6	0.7	0.7	
25. New Zealand	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.9 (up 15%)

Total = 69.3 (up 30%)

World Sprinkler News

Fire Test Center for Northern Ireland - The British government has announced plans to build the country's leading center for research into fire safety at the University of Ulster campus just outside Belfast in Northern Ireland. The facility will allow state-of-the-art computer modeling alongside actual fire tests.

Homebuilders Censor Sprinkler Information - The Northern Illinois Chapter of the National Fire Sprinkler Association in the US reports that a newsletter published by the Northern Illinois Homebuilders Association has refused to accept advertisements promoting sprinkler protection. After one full-page ad paid for by the NFSA chapter appeared in the newsletter, the Board of Directors of the homebuilders' group voted to turn away further placements, calling the ad "offensive" to its 2,000 members.

Siemens-Cerberus Moves Into Sprinklers - Siemens-Cerberus Pyrotronics Division, which made its entry into the sprinkler industry with the 1999 purchase of Automatic Sprinkler Protection of Brazil in 1998, has acquired two additional sprinkler contracting firms in South America. The companies are Fire Control (Brazil) and McKean S.R.L. (Argentina).

Australian Sprinkler Handbook - Standards Australia has published *HB147 – Sprinklers Simplified*, a handbook prepared by well-known sprinkler authority Barry Lee in cooperation with David Michel of Standards Australia. The handbook addresses the history and performance of sprinklers and the origin of the SAA Sprinkler Code as well as commentary on Australian Sprinkler Standards AS2118 (systems) and AS4118 (components). The book can be purchased for \$28 and ordered by contacting Bob Sutcliffe at FPA Australia at bobs@fpaa.com.au.

FPA Updates LPC Sprinkler Rules - The Fire Protection Association in the UK has released March 2000 updates to the LPC Rules for Automatic Sprinkler Installations. The update contains seven new technical bulletins and can be ordered by contacting fpa@thefpa.co.uk.

NFPA Report Overlooks Lack of Sprinklers in Gothenburg Fire - The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has released its report on the fatal fire at the Gothenburg, Sweden dance hall on October 28, 1998 that killed 63 people and injured another 180. Although the report notes that no automatic fire sprinkler system was installed, it does not cite the lack of sprinklers as a factor contributing to the loss of life and property. Instead, the report focuses on overcrowding, the lack of a fire alarm system, and ignition of combustibles in a stairwell.

Hong Kong Airport Omits High Sprinklers - The new Hong Kong International Airport includes sprinkler protection in retail shops, baggage handling areas, and elsewhere, but sprinklers were omitted from the general circulation and lounge areas, which have ceilings as high as 30 m (98 ft). Opened in July of 1998, the airport took seven years to build at a total cost of US\$20 billion.

IFE Chief Warning - Chief William Peterson of Plano, Texas, speaking at a seminar of the Institution of Fire Engineers in the United Kingdom entitled "Crime and Disorder – the Fire Service Role" is quoted as noting that "fire is the only weapon of mass destruction that is freely available to everyone – man, woman, and child."

British Sprinkler Rules Debated - Opposing views of the British sprinkler rules have been presented in the April and June 2000 editions of *Fire Safety Engineering*. In the April issue, Derek Wright suggests that BS5306 Part 2, based on the old Loss Prevention Council insurance rules, is outdated and does not allow sprinklers to be installed as cost-effectively as would alternative standards. He advocates the development of life safety and basic property protection standards alongside the insurance-based standard, so as to allow three different levels of protection. In the June issue, British Automatic Sprinkler Association Secretary General Stewart Kidd responds, pointing out that the lesser standards would bring with them issues of limited water supply durations, partial protection, and other undesirable characteristics that would make sprinkler protection less reliable.

International Case Studies Show Sprinkler Differences - Five national teams of fire protection engineers presented their designs for fire protection of a 28,000 m² shopping mall at the 3rd International Conference on Performance-Based Codes held in Lund, Sweden on June 15-17, 2000. The mall consisted of a basement parking area, two floors of shops with a central atrium, and rooftop parking. The team from Japan used no sprinklers, relying on a compartmentation scheme that included rolling shutters over display windows. The team from New Zealand used sprinklers only in the in the shops, while the teams from Australia and Sweden called for sprinklers in the atrium as well. Only the team from the U.S., a group of engineers from Rolf Jensen & Associates, used sprinklers throughout the facility, including the basement parking garage.

Upcoming Meetings, Seminars, and Exhibitions of Interest

June 20-25, 2000 - INTERSHUTZ 2000, Augsburg, Germany, (In US FAX 609-987-0092 or e-mail dhyland@hfusa.com) (In Germany FAX +(49) 511/89-32692 or e-mail Ulrich.koch@messe.de)

July 16-17, 2000 - "Fire Sprinkler Technology and NFPA 13", Tel Aviv, Israel, Organized by NFPA and IFSA in partnership with the Israeli Engineers and Architects Association. (Fax 1-914-878-4215 or www.sprinklerworld.org)

July 19-20, 2000 - "Fire Sprinkler Technology and NFPA 13", Cairo, Egypt, Organized by NFPA and IFSA in partnership with the Egyptian Fire Protection Association (Fax 1-914-878-4215 or www.sprinklerworld.org)

September 7-8, 2000 - "Home Protection 2000", Glasgow, Scotland, UK, Organized by the Fire Protection Association and Straythclyde Fire Brigade (www.thefpa.co.uk)

October 17-20, 2000 – China Fire 2000, Beijing, China, China Fire Protection Association (Fax +852-2890-2657 or tgrexo@netvigator.com)

November 7-9, 2000 – Fire 2000, Institute of Fire Engineers and Fire Protection Association Brigade (www.thefpa.co.uk)

November 11-15, 2000 – NFPA Fall Education Conference, Orlando, Florida, USA, NFPA (www.nfpa.org)