

5 Year Inspection

14.2 Internal Inspection of Piping

14.2.1 Except as discussed in 14.2.1.1 and 14.2.1.4 an inspection of piping and branch line conditions shall be conducted every 5 years by opening a flushing connection at the end of one main and by removing a sprinkler toward the end of one branch line for the purpose of inspecting for the presence of foreign organic and inorganic material.

Subsection 14.2.1 applies to all four types of sprinkler systems (wet, dry, preactions, and deluge), as well as foam-water sprinkler systems.

Subsection 14.2.1 was added to the 2002 edition of NFPA 25 in an attempt to prevent destruction of piping systems by microbiologically influenced corrosion (MIC). The 2002 edition modified this requirement to specifically indicate that 14.2.1 requires an inspection, not a complete (and subsequently, expensive) obstruction investigation. The internal inspection required by 14.2.1 is intended to reveal the presence of MIC, zebra mussels, or inorganic material such as rust and scale, which are increasingly common sources of piping obstruction

TABLE (shorten version) E.1

Item	Finding	Reference	▶ Impairment	▶ Critical deficiency	Non-critical
Obstruction Investigation	No inspection of main and branch line after 5 yrs./or inspection revealed MIC, zebra mussels rust and scale.	14.3		X	