This policy is promulgated in accordance with Section 104.1 of the 2015 International Fire Code (IFC) and is an official interpretation of Section 8.15.8.1.1 of NFPA 13 (2013 edition) which is adopted by reference from the IFC.

**NFPA 13 2013 8.15.8.1.1**

**8.15.8.1.1** Sprinklers shall not be required in bathrooms that are located within dwelling units of hotels and motels, that do not exceed 55 ft² (5.1 m²) in area, and that have walls and ceilings of noncombustible or limited-combustible materials with a 15-minute thermal barrier rating, including the walls and ceilings behind any shower enclosure or tub.

**NFPA 13 2016 8.15.8.1.1**

**8.15.8.1.1** Unless sprinklers are required by 8.15.8.1.2 or 8.15.8.1.3, sprinklers shall not be required in bathrooms that are located within dwelling units, that do not exceed 55 ft² (5.1 m²) in area, and that have walls and ceilings of noncombustible or limited-combustible materials with a 15-minute thermal barrier rating, including the walls and ceilings behind any shower enclosure or tub.

It is the position of the Fire Prevention Bureau, based upon the requirement being added and removed from NFPA 13 between the 2010, 2013, & 2016 versions, and the dearth of related fire events in sprinklered bathrooms that sprinklers will not be required in bathrooms of all dwelling units less than 55 ft².

Any comments or questions regarding the above information may be submitted to:

Office of the Fire Marshal  
City of Des Moines Fire Department  
Fire Prevention Bureau  
2715 Dean Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50317  
Office: (515) 283-4240  
Fax: (515) 283-4907  
Email: fireddept@dmgov.org