SECTION 202 (IBC [F] 202)
GENERAL DEFINITIONS

3204.2 Designation based on engineering analysis. The designation of a high-piled combustible storage area, or portion thereof, is allowed to be based on a lower hazard class than that of the highest class of commodity stored when a limited quantity of the higher hazard commodity has been demonstrated by engineering analysis to be adequately protected by the automatic sprinkler system provided. The engineering analysis shall consider the ability of the sprinkler system to deliver the higher density required by the higher hazard commodity. The higher density shall be based on the actual storage height of the pile or rack and the minimum allowable design area for sprinkler operation as set forth in the density/area figures provided in NFPA 13. The contiguous area occupied by the higher hazard commodity shall not exceed 120 square feet (11 m²) and additional areas of higher hazard commodity shall be separated from other such areas by 25 feet (7620 mm) or more. The sprinkler system shall be capable of delivering the higher density over a minimum area of 900 square feet (84 m²) for wet pipe systems and 1,200 square feet (111 m²) for dry pipe systems. The shape of the design area shall be in accordance with Section 903. Where the maximum storage height is less than 12 feet (3658 mm) in height, Miscellaneous Storage density requirements in NFPA 13 are permitted for the application of the higher density.

Reason: NFPA 13 has special provisions and tables for storage of miscellaneous storage, while IFC terminology and requirement includes limited amounts of “higher hazard commodity”. By adding this language it allows the user to use the miscellaneous storage tables [i.e. for storage of ≤12’ in height] to the 900 sq ft areas requiring the higher density. Even though the language for “higher hazard commodity” does not exactly match the “Miscellaneous Storage” definitions in NFPA 13 this change allows for more flexibility for storage heights of 12’ or less in choosing an appropriate design density.

Cost Impact: This code change proposal will not increase the cost of construction.