Common deficiencies found during the visual inspection:

1. Not all control valves electronically supervised.
2. Supervisory signal not sent to an area within the facility where it is likely to be heard. For example, signal is sent to outside or mechanical room where the FACP may be located, but not to the nurses' station or switchboard where it is likely to be heard.
3. Flow alarms that do not operate properly (wrong size orifice at the inspector's location or does not operate within 90 seconds).
4. Improper heating devices at the sprinkler riser locations.
5. Sprinkler pipes being used as hangers for other materials or construction components.
6. Dry system components not being supervised (hi/low air pressure switches).
7. Incomplete testing documentation or missing tests.
8. Partially sprinkled buildings that require a complete automatic sprinkler system throughout (electrical or critical areas omitted).
9. Sprinkler systems not interconnected with fire alarm system that sends signal off site for emergency forces notification.
10. Corroded or painted-over sprinkler heads.
11. Improperly installed sprinkler heads in freezing locations (not enough or no protection against freezing weather).
12. Obstruction of coverage (items stacked too high or fixtures installed obstructing the spray pattern of the sprinkler deflector).

Common deficiencies at the riser locations:

1. Items stored around and on the sprinkler system riser (riser room used as a storage room).
2. No required spare parts cabinet with extra sprinkler heads.
3. No required special sprinkler wrench in the spare parts cabinet.
4. Riser room not adequately protected from the elements (space heater used to protect against freezing).

Complete automatic sprinkler system requirements to look for when testing:

1. All control valves that can adversely affect the function of the sprinkler system shall be electronically supervised (regardless if the valve is chained and locked, chained and locked means the valve is secured. Life safety code requires it to be electronically supervised)
2. Activation of the sprinkler system (flowing of water) shall automatically send a signal off site to emergency forces without human intervention.
3. Supervisory signals shall send a signal to a location within the facility where it is likely to be heard.
4. Supervisory signals shall be identified within the facility in the area where it is likely to be heard.

Common deficiencies found on inspection and testing forms:

1. Forms are incomplete, have blank sections, are not properly filled out. Information missing.
2. Missing some testing requirements; might show quarterly tests on a dry system but no annual trip test.
3. Missing a quarterly test during the calendar year.
4. Fire pump test information without the annual full flow test.
5. Fire pump weekly no-flow test information missing.
6. Annual testing of a sprinkler system, but no required quarterly testing.
7. Problems with the system are noted but not corrected.
8. Photocopied forms with the dates changed, but information unchanged quarter after quarter.