THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 12, 1982

TO: Borough Superintendents

FROM: Irwin Fruchtman, P.E., Commissioner

SUBJECT: Fire Dampers in One Hour Rated Walls

Refer to New York City Administrative (Building) Code Sections:

C26-502.7
C26-504.4
Table 5-3
C26-504.7
C26-1300.7
Reference Standard RS 13-1
NFIPA No. 90-A-1967, as Modified.

This Office in the last year or two, has been receiving inquiries as to our interpretation of the requirements for fire dampers in one hour rated walls from the industry, consultants, (Rolf Jensen & Associates, who reviewed the fire protection requirements of the New York City Code), the New York City Advisory Council for Life and Fire Safety, (sub-committee for Office and Mercantile Buildings), and the Fire Department.

After reviewing this matter and taking into consideration all aspects of the problem, fire dampers in one hour rated walls in Mercantile, Business and Institutional Occupancies may be omitted under the following conditions:

1. Where automatic sprinkler protection is provided for an entire story, or for spaces within that story segregated by fire divisions, or separations having at least a two hour fire-resistance rating, complying with the construction provisions of Article 17 of the Code, or

2. Where the openings for ventilating ducts do not exceed three square feet in area, or

3. Where in lieu of a fire damper, the duct is protected for a distance equal to the maximum duct dimension, on both sides of the one hour rated partition, or by a properly constructed sleeve with an equivalent one hour fire protection for such horizontal distance.

Irwin Fruchtman, P.E.
Commissioner

cc: Exec. Staff
Professional Societies
Industry

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