THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 26, 1981

O: Borough Superintendents

Chief Construction Inspectors

ROM: Cornelius F. Dennis, P.E., Assistant Commissioner-Operations

SUBJECT: FIRE STOPPING (Section C26-504.7)

The new Building Code permits mineral, slag and rock wool to be used as "fire stopping when compacted solidly into a confined space." Fiber glass may be considered as mineral wool. None of these materials may be used as firestopping loosely placed in crawl spaces, cock lofts, plenums, etc.

Glass fiber batts may be sold with a density of about .6 lb. per cubic feet. Compacted glass fiber batts must have a density of at least 3.5 pcf or 6 times the original density.

A confined space shall have its least dimension not more than 1/3 of its second dimension. Section C26-504.5 of the Administrative Building Code further mandates that the confined space for pipes and conduits shall have a least dimension not exceeding 1/2 inch and be closed off by a close-fitting metal escutcheon on each side.

Test data by a recognized testing laboratory may be submitted by a licensed professional applicant to justify a particular fire stopping detail not in conformance with this memo.

Cornelius F. Dennis, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner - Operations

CFD: rmr

cc: Executive Staff
Construction Inspectors
Industry

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