

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 7, 1971

TO: Borough Superintendents &
Executive Staff
FROM: Philip Goldstein, P.E. Director of
Technological Development
SUBJECT: Mechanical Designs Based on Electronic
Computer Computations

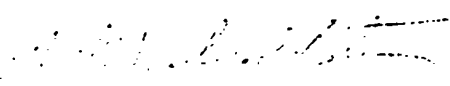
At the present time the Department of Buildings' "Rules Relating to Structural Designs Based on Electronic Computer Computations" which became effective, September 7, 1971, apply only to structural designs. The rules are not applicable to mechanical designs.

Therefore, programs for mechanical designs should not be sent to 100 Gold Street for prequalification.

The degree of complexity of the design equations used for mechanical designs is not as great as that for indeterminate structures. Mechanical examiners, who wish to investigate calculations in accordance with C26-110.4 of the Administrative code should not find it difficult to obtain translations of the input and output from the applicant to a degree sufficient to determine compliance with the building code.

Providing for the safety of the public, of course, is of the highest priority. In the examination of the mechanical plans fire safety is of prime importance. The piercing of rated partitions, the proper installation of safety devices, and the protection of ducts are of the highest concern to the department and are not related to computer calculations.

The decision to limit the computer rules to structural designs is not irreversible. Computer based mechanical designs are beginning to gain in popularity. The situation in this field will be closely watched and related department policies constantly will be reviewed.


Philip Goldstein, P.E.
Director of Technological
Development