

The City of New York  
HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION  
Department of Buildings

DIRECTIVE NO. 15, 1974

TO: Borough Superintendents

DATE: October 18, 1974

FROM: Thomas V. Burke, P.E., Director of Operations

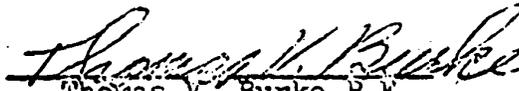
SUBJECT: LOCAL LAW # 5/1974 RS-17-3B  
MODIFIED FIRE ALARM SIGNAL SYSTEMS

Local Law #5/73, Section C26-1704.5(g), permits the installation of a modified Class E fire alarm system complying with RS-17-3B in existing office buildings, 100 feet or more in height, in which fire alarm or communication systems existed prior to January 18, 1973.

The principal difference between the Class E fire alarm system (RS-17-3A) and the modified Class E fire alarm system (RS-17-3B) is that the latter permits a single source of electrical energy under Section 1(a) of RS-17-3B, except however, that a secondary source is required for radio systems under Section 16(a)(3) and for carrier transmission systems under Section 18(a)(3).

1. The following, when installed prior to January 18, 1973, shall be deemed to be existing fire alarm or communication systems which when incorporated wholly or substantially permit the installation of a modified Class E fire alarm system (RS-17-3B).
  - a. A smoke detection system which incorporates a local alarm and a connection to a franchised central office operating company activated by any duct, area or fan shutdown detector.
  - b. A sprinkler water flow alarm which incorporates either a local electrical alarm or is connected to a franchised central office operating company.
  - c. A thermostatic alarm system which incorporates a local alarm and is connected to a franchised central office company.
  - d. An exit stairway locked door fail safe release system.
  - e. A standpipe fircline signaling and telephone system.
  - f. An elevator voice communication system between the elevator car and the elevator starter's panel.
  - g. An approved interior fire alarm signal system consisting of manual stations and sounding devices on each floor. The presence of any of these systems qualify an existing building for the installation of a modified Class E fire alarm system as described in RS-17-3B.

2. RS-17-3B Section 1(a), sources of electrical energy, shall be interpreted to require only one of the listed sources of electrical energy, except that a secondary source is required under Section 16(a)(3), for radio systems and 18(a)(3), for carrier current transmission systems.
3. A Board of Standards and Appeals Class E fire alarm system may be used as a modified Class E fire alarm signal system with the number of electrical energy sources as indicated in RS-17-3B, and Section 2 of this Directive.
4. Section 1(c) of RS-17-3B, requires that where there is a secondary or emergency source of electrical energy the fire alarm system shall be connected as specified.
5. The department plan examiners, where the installation of a modified Class E fire alarm signal system is proposed, shall:
  - a. Accept the applicant's statement on amendment and plan that a modified Class E fire alarm signal system is being installed, provided that the type of existing fire alarm or communication system listed in Section 1 of this Directive is indicated, and further that existence of the present system is subject to Fire Department verification at the time of examination of the electrical wiring and shop drawings for approval by such department.
  - b. Require that the number and type of electrical sources of energy as required by RS-17-3B and this Directive be specified in the general notes on the plan.

  
Thomas V. Burke, P.E.  
Director of Operations

TVB/LR/sc

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