DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS
120 WALL STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10005
Irwin Fruchtman, P.E., Commissioner

Dear Sirs:

EXITS OF LARGE RETAIL STORES

With the coming of the Christmas season, it is especially important that those stores where large numbers of persons congregate for Christmas shopping, maintain the exits in a clear, unobstructed condition and that exit and directional signs be provided so that the location of the exits may be obvious to persons in the stores.

In advance of an inspection by this department you are directed to inspect your premises for those conditions as quickly as possible so as to require sufficient exits for the great number of persons using the retail stores at this time. Exit signs are to be located so that signs designating exits are visible from any point of a floor. Passages to exits shall be required to be clear and unobstructed. Doors are to be readily openable, with no obstructions of any kind.

It shall be required that any obstructions of exits be eliminated at once. Inspectors are instructed to issue summons to court for failure to do so.

Escalators or moving stairs shall be inspected to determine if the horizontal shutter is functioning properly.

You are directed to ascertain that the sprinkler system is in good operating condition. The O.S. and Y. valve shall be inspected by your engineer or your sprinkler system contractor and the test valve opened to assure system contains water.

If any defects or malfunctions are discovered you are to immediately take corrective action for the safety of your customers and employees who would otherwise be dangerously jeopardized.

Your cooperation is sincerely appreciated in this mutual concern for the protection of life and limb of the many persons depending on us.

Very truly yours,

Irwin Fruchtman, P.E.
Commissioner

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