



ISSUANCE #~~175~~  
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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
60 HUDSON STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10013

JOEL A. MIELE, SR, P.E., Commissioner

(212) 312-8100

Richard C. Visconti, R.A.  
First Deputy Commissioner  
Technical Affairs/Operations  
(212) 312-8120

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TECHNICAL  
POLICY AND PROCEDURE NOTICE # 3/95

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TO: Distribution

FROM: Richard C. Visconti, R.A.  
First Deputy Commissioner

DATE: May 9, 1995

SUBJECT: "Grace Period" for the Use of Fluoropolymer "Teflon Equivalent" Cables  
Previously Accepted by the Department.

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EFFECTIVE: February 1, 1996

**PURPOSE:** To phase out the use of previously accepted/approved "Teflon Equivalent" fire alarm cables which are not in compliance with the requirements listed in the Department's memorandum dated October 3, 1994 (copy attached), without causing undue hardship to the industry.

**SPECIFICS:** The Department has re-evaluated the requirements for accepting fluoropolymer "Teflon Equivalent" cables used in fire alarm systems. The new requirements establish characteristics of cabling to meet the intent of the code for resistance to mechanical injury and higher temperature. Therefore, all applications filed with the Department (on or after the effective date of this notice) for fire alarm systems in which fluoropolymer "Teflon Equivalent" cables are used **shall** be in compliance with the requirements of the above mentioned memorandum. Those applications shall include new, altered and retrofit fire alarm systems.

Applications filed prior to the effective date of this notice may continue to use the previously accepted/approved fire alarm cables, however, any amendments to these applications filed after the effective date of this notice shall be in compliance.

Attachment



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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Mark Jachniewicz, P.E., Director  
Material and Equipment Acceptance Division

FROM: Richard C. Visconti, R.A. *Richard C. Visconti*  
First Deputy Commissioner

DATE: October 3, 1994

SUBJECT: Fire Alarm Wiring

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In reference to your previous concern regarding accepting fire alarm wiring, the Fire Alarm Steering Committee and the Fire Department both have agreed that not all fire alarm wiring, approved or accepted by the Board of Standards and Appeals or the Material and Equipment Acceptance Division, are considered equivalent to "Teflon" cables in terms of its resistance to mechanical inquiry as intended in Section (6) of Reference Standards RS 17-3A and RS 17-3B of the Building Code.

In order to meet the intent of the code, effective immediately, only cables having the following characteristics shall be considered as "Teflon" equivalent:

- Be in conformance with the requirements for type FPLP "Power-Limited Fire Protective - Signaling Circuits."
- The cable shall have a temperature rating of 150°C or higher.
- The conductors insulation shall be solid with a minimum average thickness of 15 mils.
- The cable shall be protected with a sheath and an outer jacket of 25 mils minimum, and the jacket shall be colored red or shall be clear with red cable tape visible underneath.

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- The cable shall be labelled for its entire length, "Fire Department Service," and, in addition, shall indicate the BSA or MEA approval #'s and the temperature rating.
- The cable shall meet the requirements of UL Test 1424 and UL Tunnel Test 910, and shall be labelled of such requirements on its jacket.

All cables that were accepted by the Department and do not meet the above requirements shall be revoked.

RCV/MM/gt

cc: J. Miele, Sr., P.E., Commissioner  
C. Sturcken, Esq., Chief of Staff  
S. Babbar, R.A., Assistant Commissioner  
B. Cox, Assistant Commissioner  
M. Singer, Esq., Assistant Commissioner  
J. Grill, P.E., Assistant Commissioner  
L. Norman, Dir., Intergov. Affairs  
A. Yosha, Esq., Dir., I.D.U.  
M. Kahme, Dir., Bur. of Elec. Control  
Borough Commissioners  
File