

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS
DIRECTIVE NO. 2-1981

DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

DATE April 7, 1981

TO: Borough Superintendents

FROM: Irwin Fruchtman, P.E. *IF*
Commissioner

SUBJECT: STAIR PRESSURIZATION - LOCAL LAW NO. 5 of 1973
as amended by Local Law No. 84 and 86 of 1979 -
Section C26-504.15 Administrative Code.

Directive No. 14 of 1975 - Modification No. 5.

This memorandum supplements the memorandum concerning
the above subject, issued September 5, 1980, by Deputy
Commissioner Parascandola.

Existing office buildings 100 feet or more in height,
having air-conditioning and/or mechanical ventilation systems
that serve more than the floor on which the equipment is
located and the building is not to be sprinklered
throughout, must be provided with at least one smoke
shaft. However, in lieu of smoke shaft, all interior
enclosed stairs, other than a fire tower or access
stairs, may be provided with a system of pressurization
in accordance with the provisions of Section C26-504.15
of the Administrative Code, as amended by Local Law No. 86
of 1979.

Where the stair pressurization, alternate has been selected,
plans showing compliance with applicable provisions of the
Building Code should have been filed and a permit obtained
from the department by September 13, 1980.

An amendment is to be filed with the Altered Building
Application already on file which set forth the specific
compliance with Local Law No. 5 of 1973 as revised. The
amendment with complete detailed working plans and computations,
is to be filed by a Licensed Professional Engineer or
Registered Architect. Item numbers 1,3,4 applicable
portions of 6,7 & 8, which follows, are to be complied with.

An alternate procedure may be followed to comply with
the requirements for stair pressurization. Whereby the
examination of the amendment by the department shall be
expedited provided all of the following items are
complied with.

1. All amendments filed under this procedure shall be expedited.

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2. An amendment with schematic plans and computations shall be filed with the Altered Building Application previously required to be filed, to indicate compliance with Local Law No. 5 of 1973 as revised. The amendment shall be filed by a Licensed Professional Engineer or Registered Architect.

The amendment or plans filed with the amendment shall indicate the following:

- a. The design of the stair pressurization system is in full compliance with all the provisions and requirements of Reference Standard RS 5-18 entitled "Standards for the Pressurization of Stairs".
 - b. The submission of a schematic layout of the proposed system of stair pressurization is to show the basic components of the proposed system in accordance with the provisions of Reference Standard RS 5-18.
 - c. The computations submitted is to be for the most critical conditions of design in the opinion of the engineer or architect.
 - d. The schematic layout together with the computations shall indicate it can be reasonably expected that the proposed system, when installed and tested, will comply with the requirements of Reference Standard RS 5-18.
 - e. Upon approval, three paper sets of plans shall be required. One paper set is to be filed for approval with the Fire Department.
 - f. A statement is to be made that all fans shall be operated from circuits that are separate from the general lighting and power circuits taken off ahead of the main switch and connected to an emergency power source when such source is provided.
3. A form "B Form 18" entitled "Statement B" shall be filed to indicate that the owner has authorized the Licensed Professional Engineer or Registered Architect to file an amendment to show compliance with the latest stair pressurization provisions of the Building Code.
 4. A form "B Form 10F" entitled "Amendment - Controlled Inspection" shall be filed to indicate the Licensed Professional Engineer or Registered Architect responsible for the complete inspection and testing of the stair pressurization installation. For the purpose of stair pressurization, the design Engineer or Architect must assume the responsibility of the inspection and testing.

5. The amendment with schematic plans and computations, if otherwise acceptable, shall be approved. However, no permit is to be issued and no work may be started on the basis of this approval.
6. Final detailed working plans must then be filed on a separate amendment to the previously filed application, pursuant to Directive 14 of 1975. Directive 14 of 1975, Item 11, is amended to allow the final detailed working plans indicating compliance with stair pressurization to be filed under its provisions only when the schematic plans have been previously approved. These final detailed working plans shall be microfilmed in accordance with these final detailed working plans. Testing of the finished installation, subject to controlled inspection, shall be witnessed by a representative of the Department of Buildings designated by the Borough Superintendent and the Fire Department. Upon satisfactory completion of the test, a form "B Form 10E" entitled "Amendment - Controlled Inspection Report" shall be filed.
7. Until such time as the Board of Standards and Appeals approves adjustable barometric backdraft dampers, applications may be approved and Permits issued when the following note appears on the plans:

"Type of barometric backdraft damper shall be submitted to the Department for approval on shop drawings prior to installation "in the field".
8. Fire Department approval for the electrical installation must be obtained prior to the testing of the finished installation.

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