



DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
120 WALL STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10005

CHARLES M. SMITH, Jr., R. A., Commissioner

August 14, 1986

GEORGE E. BERGER, P.E.  
Assistant Commissioner  
Building Construction  
Special Projects

Mr. Joel Pastolove  
Acme Sprinkler Company  
118 West 18th Street  
New York, New York 10011

Re: Sprinkler System - RS 17-2  
Water Reserve for 20 Minute  
Duration

---

Dear Mr. Pastolove:

As per your request this office with the advice of the Fire Department has reviewed the guidelines in determining acceptable automatic means of makeup when the water reserve is reduced from 30 minutes to 20 minutes as approved by Board of Standards Appeals #633-83.

The following conditions should be met for determining acceptable automatic means of makeup:

1. Automatic means of makeup for a tank fire reserve should be capable of pumping water into the tank at a rate, for a period of 20 minutes, sufficient to equal the difference between the normal 30 minute demand and the alternate 20 minute demand. The demand required is established by calculations for the most demanding remote area from the riser as shown by examples of Appendix A of NFPA 13-1983 and as now determined for the 30 minute demand.
2. There should be at least two automatic means of makeup, each having the same capacity, so that in the event a unit must be removed for repairs the other unit can be placed in service.
3. An approved low water alarm is to be provided and located at a point 500 gallons above the available fire reserve level.

Very truly yours,

  
George E. Berger, P.E.  
Assistant Commissioner