

THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 28, 1980

TO: Borough Superintendents

FROM: Cornelius F. Dennis, P. E.  
Asst. Commissioner-Operations

SUBJECT: BUILDINGS PROTECTED BY STEEL PLATES

In an attempt to prevent burglaries and to make their buildings secure from intruders, owners and/or lessees have installed steel plates on roofs concealed by roofing material, on the inside of exterior walls, including windows, and on the insides of interior demising walls separating tenant spaces.

Any of the above ways of making the building secure against illegal entry could put excessive stress on portions of the building. In addition, this construction has been found to be a potential hazard to firemen fighting the fire. Accordingly, this work shall not constitute an "ordinary repair" or a "minor alteration".

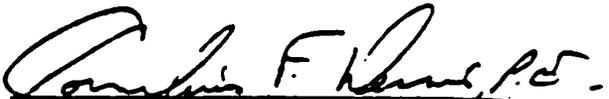
In the interest of public safety, health and welfare, the following criteria shall govern the installation of steel plates on roofs, walls and floors.

1. A Building Notice application shall be required to be filed under Directive 14 of 1975, accepted and a work permit obtained. A copy of the accepted application with plans shall be sent to the Fire Department (Division of Fire Prevention).

2. The owner may file such application when it is obvious that the proposed work will not constitute a structural hazard. However, architects or engineers shall be required to submit applications with structural calculations in all instances when plates exceeding  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in thickness are placed on roofs or floors.

3. A sign readily visible must be displayed on the outside of the building to indicate to any fireman responding to a fire in the building that the building or premises is protected by steel plates.

4. When an existing installation is found, a violation shall be filed requiring the obtaining of a permit issued by this department. A copy of this violation shall be sent to the Fire Department (Bureau of Fire Prevention)

  
Cornelius F. Dennis, P. E.  
Asst. Commissioner-Operations

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