

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS


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**TECHNICAL
POLICY AND PROCEDURE NOTICE #6/96**

TO: Distribution

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

DATE: June 21, 1996

SUBJECT: Required Smoke and Fire Dampers

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

PURPOSE: To clarify the installation of smoke and fire dampers required under Sections 27-343 and 27-777.01 of the Administrative Code.

SPECIFICS: Based on the many inquiries received from the industry regarding required smoke and fire dampers in ducts passing through construction required to have fire resistance rating, also as recommended by the World Trade Center Building Code Review Committee, the following applies:

1. Except in buildings classified in Occupancy Group J-2, smoke and fire dampers are required to be installed at any penetration of construction required to have a fire resistance rating of two hours or more.
2. Only fire dampers are required to be installed at any penetration of construction required to have a fire resistance rating of one-hour pursuant to Section 27-343(a) of the Administrative Code.

3. Smoke dampers shall comply with the requirements of Reference Standard 13-1.
4. When required under Subchapter 17, Section 27-777.01(b) and Reference Standards 17-3, 17-3A and 17-3B, smoke detectors controlling the smoke dampers shall be connected to the building's fire alarm system when such system is provided.
5. Items 1 thru 4 above are applicable to new buildings and existing buildings where new fire rated partitions are erected or where ducts are being installed, modified or reconfigured in such a way as to require the installation of smoke and/or fire dampers.

In addition to the above, smoke dampers:

- a. shall be installed in smoke barriers regardless of the fire resistance rating of the barriers;
- b. need not be installed in exhaust ducts or shafts where the exhaust fan is maintained in operation during occupancy, i.e., toilet exhaust duct.

This TPPN shall supersede any previous letter or interpretation for the same subject.

RCV/MM/gt
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