



DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
60 HUDSON STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10013  
RUDOLPH J. RINALDI, Commissioner

GEORGE C. SAKONA, P.E.  
Deputy Commissioner  
Technical Affairs  
(212) 312-8120

November 7, 1991

Mr. Melvin Kaufman  
Sage Realty Corporation  
777 Third Avenue  
New York, New York 10017

Re: Fire Dampers  
Local Law 5/73

Dear Mr. Kaufman:

Your letter dated August 9, 1991 to Commissioner Rinaldi regarding the requirements for fire dampers in office buildings has been forwarded to my office for review and response.

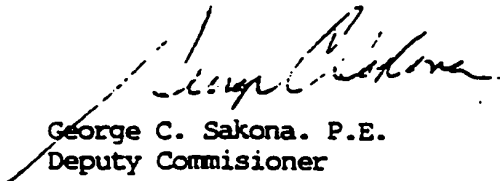
Section 27-339(c)(2) of the Building Code, where the floor area exceeds ten thousand square feet, requires at least one of the sub-dividing fire separations be of two-hour fire resistive construction, creating areas of refuge.

However, Section 27-339(c)(4) permits the acceptance of an existing (Pre-LL 5/73) one-hour rated partition in lieu of the two-hour rated partition provided all other requirements of Sections 27-339(c)(2) and 27-339(c)(3) are met.

Any opening in these partitions (existing one-hour or new two-hour rated) is required to be protected with an opening protective. Therefore, 1½ hour rated fire dampers must be installed in ducts where they pierce these partitions.

Section 27-343 exempts duct openings not exceeding three square feet in area in required one-hour rated partition from the requirement for fire dampers when the duct is protected on both sides.

Very truly yours,



George C. Sakona, P.E.  
Deputy Commissioner