



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

October 4, 1990

Mr. Brian Woodward  
Rolf Jensen & Associates, Inc.  
Park 80 West, Plaza II  
Saddle Brook, New Jersey 07662

Re: Gravity Venting for Atriums & Malls

Dear Mr. Woodward:

Your letter dated May 22, 1990 to Commissioner Rinaldi has been forwarded to my office for review and response.

1. Gravity vents are required as a back system if mechanical systems fails. The gravity vents should be doing the same functions that are required of mechanical venting systems. Therefore, the gravity vents should be designed and sized based on volume and height of the Atrium/Mall
2. The purpose of gravity vents are to provide a back-up system for venting should a mechanical system fail. Therefore, your request to install a second mechanical venting system in lieu of gravity vents is hereby denied. However, on a case by case basis for a particular building this arrangement may be considered.

Very truly yours,

George C. Sakona, P.E.  
Deputy Commissioner

GCS:NIP:rmr

cc: Commissioner R. J. Rinaldi, R.A.  
Executive Engineer I. Polsky, P.E. ✓  
Borough Commissioners/Superintendents  
Executive Assistant M. Kirk - 017713 - 5/25/90  
Chief John J. Toohey, Bureau of Fire Prevention