

February 3, 1978

Hon. Peter D. Joseph,  
Assistant Commissioner  
Dept. of Housing Preservation & Development  
100 Gold St.  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Joseph:

Voluntary Smoke Alarm System Approvals

Your letter of January 29, 1978, regarding specifications for installation of voluntary smoke alarm systems in the public halls and dwelling units at various residential developments has been reviewed.

Generally, the pertinent applicable provisions of Reference Standard RS17-3 are to be complied with.

However, in view of the fact that all of the buildings in which the systems are being installed are fireproof or Class I-A buildings, wire mold conduits may be utilized for the hard wired systems in lieu of rigid conduit, provided:

1. The installation conforms with the New York City Electrical Code.
2. All materials, components, and system installation methods meet or exceed U.L. requirements.
3. The smoke detectors, in particular, shall be designed and installed so as to detect smoke and activate an alarm, be reasonably free from false alarms and provide visible indication that the alarm is energized. Such device shall be directly connected to the lighting circuit, with no intervening wall switch and shall provide a warning signal clearly audible in all sleeping quarters with intervening doors closed. Cord connected installations or smoke detectors which rely

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exclusively on batteries are not permissible. Such devices shall  
either be approved or listed by an acceptable testing service or  
laboratory.

Very truly yours,



Jeremiah T. Walsh, P.E.  
Commissioner

JTW/IEM/df

CC: Dir. of Ops. Minkin  
Borough Superintendents  
Chief Ifshin, Fire Dept.

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