



DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
60 HUDSON STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10013

CHARLES M. SMITH, Jr., R.A., Commissioner

DEC 10 1986

December 2, 1986

GEORGE E. BERGER, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner
Building Construction

TO: BOROUGH SUPERINTENDENTS

FROM: George E. Berger, P.E. *HEB*
Assistant Commissioner

SUBJECT: COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC WASHING MACHINES

As per Section P104.12 of Reference Standard 16-1, in order to prevent backflow or back-siphonage, a vacuum breaker or air gap must be provided on any automatic clothes washer, whether for commercial or domestic use.

Since RS16-1 (ANSI A40.4-1942 and A40.6-1943) provides a standard for testing vacuum breakers, all washing machines that make use of vacuum breakers, must have their MEA number specified on the plan.

If an air gap rather than a vacuum breaker is used, the height of such air gap shall be shown on the plans. Such height shall be at least two times (2x) the cross-sectional diameter at the point of water supply discharge; if the water inlet is located closer to the washer drum than three times (3x) such cross sectional diameter, the air gap must be at least three times such diameter, to counteract near-wall influence as per RS16-1.(ANSI A40.4-1942).

Washing machines approved prior to 1968 by the Board of Standards & Appeals may be used only if the Board approval remains current.

GEB:RH:rmr

cc: Executive Staff
Chief Plumbing Inspectors

Hon. Sylvia Deutsch, Chairperson
Board of Standards & Appeals