TEL NO:
OUR REF:
YOUR REF:
REF: NUMBER AND DATE SHOULD BE QUOTED IN REFERENCE TO THIS LETTER.

FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT.
EX HOWE BLOCK.
QUEENSWAY.
HONG KONG.
25th April, 1969.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

HELP US TO HELP YOU

Gentlemen,

Air Conditioning Installations

Considerable evidence exists, both internationally and in Hong Kong, establishing disastrous results caused by the spread of fire and smoke through and from air conditioning installations.

2. Basically, the Building (Ventilating Systems) Regulations, 1964, simply maintain the compartmentation that has been designed by the Architect and approved by the Building Authority. Many discrepancies occur after this stage and are essentially site problems, i.e., openings in walls and structural ducts for electrical and air conditioning services which are very often left in an unsealed state after the services are installed.

3. Further potential fire hazards arise where the installation is provided with electrical heating and reheat facilities. Protection against overheat is already provided in the form of an overheat thermostat, and recent tests have revealed that in some cases, these overheat thermostats have failed to operate under extremes of temperature.

4. The position is now considered to be sufficiently serious, to justify insistence on duplicate protective devices on all installations employing heating and reheat facilities. I suggest that this should be achieved by connecting a 'sail switch' in series with the existing overheat thermostat. Alternative methods may of course occur to you which may be equally satisfactory for this purpose, but in any case I would be grateful if all those to whom this circular is addressed would take immediate action on all new installations, and also on existing installations where tests of the originally provided overheat thermostat show that it fails to operate.

5. Since fusible links are required to operate at 155°F., it is evident that the cut out temperature of the overheat thermostat must be well below this point. The practice elsewhere is, that the cut out operates at 120°F., within 90 seconds, and this a reasonable condition to impose as any temperature in excess of this may tend to fatigue the fusible link operating fire dampers, thereby causing them to close under 'normal' operating conditions.

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"If you wish [illegible] amplification or clarification of any of the points made in this letter (or form) please do not hesitate to [illegible] the person whose

6. I certify that an installation is in safe and efficient working order, which is of course specifically related to fire prevention, and it is becoming increasingly apparent that before I may do so, full details of the electrical installation for the air conditioning system should in future be submitted.

7. This circular is addressed to all Architects, Consultants and Engineers, in an attempt to bring your notice the risk of fire and its spread where air conditioning, particularly ducted systems, are installed. It is considered that the greatest element of risk emanates from the air conditioning plant rooms and it is for this reason that they are treated as compartments.

8. Should it be thought desirable by yourselves to arrange a meeting to discuss the foregoing, I would be pleased to make myself available for this purpose, although any discussion which may take place must be of a general nature and not of any specific installation.

9. I look forward to your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

James R. S. Pickett.

(J.R.S. Pickett)
for Director of Fire Services.

To : All Architects
Consultants
A/C Engineering Companies.

JP/ysp