

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.

3rd April, 1970.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
HELP US TO HELP YOU

Gentlemen,

The Use of False Ceilings as Air Ducts

There are apparently many differing opinions on this subject and in some cases disputes between Architect/Contractor have been brought to my attention for further advice.

2. The fire hazards associated with such practice are of course known to you, and whilst it is appreciated that you are in a highly competitive market and under pressure from your clients to reduce costs, it is now felt necessary to establish the following procedure to support you in maintaining sound engineering standards.

3. I trust that the following will completely clarify the position in respect of this practice.

- (a) All existing installations using non combustible false ceilings as a duct may be permitted to remain as such.
- (b) Existing installations using combustible false as a duct may not be approved under the Building (Ventilating Systems) Regulations, 1964.
- (c) With immediate effect, any requirement served in respect of (b) above, shall be interpreted as meaning the provision of a galvanised iron sheet metal duct for the system.
- (d) New Installations

Proposed installations and those currently being installed shall not receive approval to use the false ceiling, even when non combustible, as an air duct for Fresh air, Discharge, Return or Exhaust air purposes.

- (e) Exceptions

Ventilated ceilings specially designed for this purpose, but this precludes the false ceiling being used to contain other normal and essential services unless prior approval is given.

All electric wiring in these circumstances must be contained in cable ducts and screwed metal conduit.

4. I look forward to your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

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

Circular letter to the A/C Contractors
Assoc., Consultants and Contractors.

JRSP/cl