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OUR REF: FPB 108/0002

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TO THIS LETTER.



FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT,
EX HOWE BLOCK,
QUEENSWAY,

HONG KONG
P.O. Box 25192
Hennessy Rd. Post Office
Hong Kong

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
HELP US TO HELP YOU

10th December 1970

Dear Sir.

Recent discussions with the Liaison Group of the Hong Kong Society of Architects and this Department, have resulted in agreed changes in the Code of Practice which are to be enforced from the 1st January 1971.

The opportunity has been offered for smoke detection systems to be incorporated in Air Conditioning ducting where this is installed. It is not intended that the position shall be one of requirement in respect of ducting, but the developer of the property is offered this method as an alternative means of complying with the requirement to provide a smoke detection system to Fire Offices Committee standards.

The relevant paragraph is para. 3 sub-para 3(A) of the Code of Practice (Minimum Fire Service Installations) which states "(N.B. This may, in the case of smoke detection systems, be incorporated in the Air Conditioning system)."

These changes will reflect upon air conditioning installations to be extent that they are to become somewhat more complex, particularly in respect of fire dampers.

Fire dampers have an inherent weakness, in that they permit smoke to pass freely until such times as the increase in temperature operates the fusible link. The purpose of the fire damper is to maintain the compartmentation, which it does adequately in respect of fire, but fails to do with smoke or combustion gases. Were it not for the duct passing through the structure, otherwise imperforate, then the problem would not arise.

Premises required by the Code of Practice to install a system to Fire Offices Committee standards may now have an alternative by utilising the air conditioning installation. Where this alternative is accepted, fire dampers shall be required to respond to combustion gases. Fusible links in such applications will of course be obsolete. Fire dampers will be required to be operated by modutrol motors and since this now becomes Part of the Fire Service installation, the wiring for the system shall be in accordance with the Code of Practice, 1966 edition.

Where a submission is made requesting approval of the air conditioning installation, it is the contractors responsibility to determine from the Architect the type of Fire Service installation being provided for the premises and to what extent the air conditioning system is involved.

Yours faithfully,

M.K. Lane
(M.K. Lane)