

F/A and F/S Inspections –

It must be clarified the fire inspectors are NOT determining “Code” compliance during their inspection; they are verifying that the work conducted matches the approved documents. Additionally, there is an expectation that the contractor will follow the approved drawings and specifications they submitted for the installation; and that they will be forthright in disclosing any deviations to those drawings or specifications prior to the inspection process.

Contractor deviates from the approved drawings -

When an inspector arrives the contractor shall supply all pertinent documents so that the inspection can proceed. This could include “red-line” drawings. The contractor is expected to notify the inspector if deviation from the approved drawings has occurred PRIOR to start of the inspection. If deviations are disclosed prior to the start of the inspection – “red-line” drawings will be required to conduct the inspection and the continuation of the job is totally at the contractors’ risk. Should numerous undisclosed deviations be identified during an inspection, the inspection will be suspended until accurate “red-line” drawings can be provided. When “red-line” drawings are utilized, the inspector shall notify the Fire Code Office so that a CO hold could be placed on this permit as well as any “Parent” permit. Additionally, the contractor shall provide a letter signed by them and the General contractor (if applicable) stating that they are aware of the CO hold stipulation. Inspecting to the “red-line” drawings is NOT an approval, rather an acknowledgement that the field conditions match the “red-line” drawings. The approval of the deviations will be determined when the revised plans are submitted, reviewed, approved and compared with the red line set.

Deviations or Revisions are requested by the Inspector-

It is acknowledged that field conditions may require alterations to the plans or that plan review may have for whatever reason missed a Code deficiency contained in the approved drawings and specifications. However, in an effort to verify the requirement of a revision, an inspector must first appraise the Fire Marshal of the situation, if the Fire Marshal agrees with the inspector- the Fire Code Office is contacted to review the issue. Should it be determined through this process that a revision is required; the “red-line” process may be utilized, again totally at the contractors’ risk. It would be preferred to get the resolution approved prior to moving forward on this part of the system (conditional approval might be possible through general correspondence prior to re-submittal.) Again final approval will only occur through the revision process.

There may be times when a deviation, either contractor or inspector initiated, may be handled through a letter of clarification. Utilization of this process would require that the contractor outline in writing, why a revision should not be required; justification would require that the contractor describe why the deviation occurred and the impact or lack of impact on the on the “Code” compliance of the system. Should the request be granted, the letter would be attached to the job site and record drawings and no revision would be required. We would encourage that if the contractor wishes to utilize this process that he/she initiates the process ASAP so as to not create a problem at time of final inspection.