

Architectural Revisions 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 –

Rated Walls

When an inspector arrives the contractor shall supply all pertinent documents so that the inspection can proceed. The contractor is expected to notify the inspector if a deviation from the approved drawings has occurred PRIOR to start of the inspection. If deviations are disclosed prior to the start of the inspection – a proposed solution signed by the design professional shall 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 the design professional addresses the deviations. When this process is utilized, the inspector shall notify the Fire Code Office so that a CO hold could be placed on this permit. Additionally, an inspection hold will be placed on that portion of the project impacted on the deviated construction until the General contractor provides a letter signed by them stating that they are aware of the CO hold stipulation. Inspecting to the designers proposed deviations is NOT an approval, rather an acknowledgement that the field conditions match the designers’ proposals. The approval of the deviations will be determined when the revised plans or “Letter of Clarification”, as applicable are submitted, reviewed, approved and compared with the field reviewed documents.

Rated Penetration Protective’s –

If a particular “system” is specified by the design professional with no approved alternate, a deviation from that specified system shall require a “letter of Clarification” be filed with the Building Department so as to be attached to the record drawings. Again the project may continue totally at the contractors’ risk.

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.