



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

Public Safety Services



E. FOSTER, JR.  
GOVERNOR

V. J. BELLA  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Plan Review Staff  
Michael Cammarosano

FROM: Henry C. Reed, Sr. - Architect Supervisor *HCR*

RE: HVAC Return Air Plenums - NFPA 90A

DATE: May 20, 1997

It has been brought to my attention that raised choir and pulpit platforms are being used as return air plenums. Be advised that NFPA 90A:2-3.10.5(a) thru (d) "Raised Floor Plenum" requirements apply to such installations. Basically, the code requires materials exposed to the air flow to be noncombustible or limited combustible and to have a maximum smoke developed index of 50. This section also contains specific requirements for wires, cables, pneumatic tubing for control systems, optic-fiber cables and fire sprinkler piping. Refer to this section for their specific details whenever such a return air system is noted under a platform.

HCR/adg

MEMORANDUM

TO: Plan Review Staff

FROM: Henry Reed, Sr. *HCR*  
Architect Supervisor

RE: Smoke Detectors for HVAC Systems

DATE: June 26, 1996

It has come to my attention that the provisions of NFPA 90A for smoke detectors, the standard "M-6" comment, is being misused. Be advised that NFPA 90A is only applicable to facilities having a volume of 25,000 cubic feet of conditioned air. This also translates to a facility having 8 ft. high ceilings with greater than 3,125 sq. ft. and also having larger than a 5 ton HVAC system. Reviewers should refrain from citing these provisions unless they are actually required, as these incorrect citations are causing problems in the field.

If you have any questions, refer to NFPA 90A:1-2 and NFPA 90B:1-1.

HCR/adg

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