DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

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GOVERNOR

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DEPUTY SECRETARY

February 7, 1996

Jerry Heinberg, AIA, NCARB
Chief Architect
FACILITY PLANNING AND CONTROL
P. O. Box 94095
State Capitol Annex
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095

Dear Mr. Heinberg:

I am in receipt of your letter of January 31, 1996 in which you have requested that this office allow the submission of sprinkler designs at the same time the architectural construction contract documents are submitted for review.

As you are aware, the Office of the State Fire Marshal performs a detailed review and analysis of fire sprinkler systems, hood suppression systems and alarm systems within buildings. Due to the fact that detailed information is necessary to complete a review, we have required the design community to submit to this office shop drawings that have been checked by them in order to ensure that the actual installation is in accordance with the documents reviewed by this office. Typically, the fire protection systems (hood suppression, sprinklers, special hazards and alarms) are not installed in specific compliance with the bid documents.

As you are aware, closed specifications cannot be written, on state projects, requiring the designer to allow for alternate equipment. Some fire protection equipment is proprietary in which the component parts cannot be intermingled with other manufacturers equipment. For instance, if a Simplex alarm system is submitted to this office, with all the cut sheets provided indicating the information necessary for review, in a competitive bid situation, a different alarm company utilizing a different manufacturer could win the bid, which would require the original design to be basically thrown out. The Simplex equipment is proprietary and cannot be interchanged with other equipment. In other words, a Simplex Detector cannot be used with another manufacturer's fire alarm control panel. The same can be said of other fire protection systems. The documents submitted to this office must reflect the actual installation that will be installed. Otherwise, the designer may be required to design systems based on the three options/manufacturers allowed by the construction contract documents. Our review cannot be a generic review based on design intent. Our review must be based on the actual installation, what is actually going in the field in order to ensure proper protection for the occupants of the facilities. With

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manpower constraints, this office cannot afford to review these systems multiple times. Therefore, in order to honor your request, be advised that this office will require the designer to submit to our office all the information necessary to evaluate the design of these systems. We will need cut sheets, hydraulic calculations, battery calculations on alarm systems, wiring diagrams, etc. All the information that we have requested in the past on shop drawing submittals must now be incorporated into the design documents. If, in fact, the designers of state projects can do this and we are actually getting the information necessary for a thorough review, we can and will honor your request to evaluate these designs at the construction contract document review stage. Because these reviews are normally submitted separately, we will require there to be provided the appropriate plan review applications for fire protection systems and architectural submittals. A single application will not suffice. Please find a copy of the applications that must be included with the project. It will be necessary for the professional of record to specifically document that the submittal includes the architectural plan review submittal as well as the fire protection system submittal (sprinklers, alarms, hood suppression, special hazard suppression, etc.).

If we find that insufficient information has been submitted requiring this office to impose the requirement for shop drawing submittals, we will not continue this process. We will advise you of that occurrence if it becomes necessary. I appreciate and condone what Facility Planning is trying to do in requesting that this office implement this review process. I agree that it is the responsibility of the designers to design and that this responsibility should not be delegated to subcontractors on a job. However, we also recognize that we do not have the luxury of manpower to review these systems multiple times. Therefore, we will monitor these efforts. If we find that multiple submittals become necessary, we will have to modify our submittal requirements to go back to reviewing shop drawings. As previously stated, please advise your design professional that proper submittals must be made.

If you should have further questions or need additional clarifications, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Jerry W. Jones
Chief Architect

JWJ/adg

cc: V. J. Bella

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