



KATHLEEN B. BLANCO
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

Public Safety Services



PAUL E. SMITH
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM 2007 - 03

To: Louisiana Nursing Home Association
LA Licensed Architects
LA Licensed Engineers
Felicia Cooper, Administrator – Inspections, OSFM
Stephen Gogreve, Manager, OSFM
Gail Lorio, Supervisor of Health Care Inspections, OSFM
Plan Review Staff, OSFM

From: Don Zeringue, Chief Architect

Approved by: Paul Smith, Fire Marshal

Date: December 6, 2007

Re: Suspended Acoustical Ceilings Provided to Resist the Passage of Smoke

This office's Interpretive Memo 2006-05 remains valid. This memo addresses our newly adopted evaluation process concerning suspended ceilings which are required to limit the transfer of smoke.

On a case-by-case appeal basis, this office will consider allowing architectural, exposed, suspended-grid acoustical tile ceilings, where corridor wall continuity is not provided. Each appeal requesting the use of suspended ceilings for the termination of corridor walls must be accompanied by the following:

- **Building Evacuation/Relocation Plan** showing one hour (1HR) fire rated smoke barriers and the sizes of the resultant smoke compartments. NOTE: See NFPA 101:18.7.2 for guidance regarding operational procedures in case of fire.
- **Building Maintenance Schedule** which must include quarterly observations confirming suspended ceiling continuity.
- **Sprinkler Protection Status** of the facility. Identify whether the facility is protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system or is planned for future complete sprinkler installation (provide installation dates for future installations).

Is Yours Working"??

Smoke Detectors Save Lives!!

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

8181 INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD, BATON ROUGE, LA 70806

(225) 925-4911 1-800-256-5452

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- Provide a **floor plan** drawn to architectural or engineering scale, in order to determine the maximum travel distances to adjoining smoke compartments.

This newly adopted procedure is put into place in order to be fair to building owners who are faced with potential economic infeasibility while upholding this office's legislative mandate to provide a reasonable degree of building life safety. Future code-writers may ultimately relax, strengthen, or clarify the code intent in this regard. Until then, this office feels that its conservative code interpretation tempered by this appeal procedure is best for Louisiana's citizens.

NOTE: Complete appeal documentation, including this office's favorable determination and all of the supporting information referenced above, shall be made available to inspection personnel upon request.

DPZ/ff/