DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

Public Safety Services

M. J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.
GOVERNOR

V. J. BELLA
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM 2000 - 18

To: Licensed Architects
Licensed Engineers
Licensed Sprinkler Contractors
Licensed Fire Alarm Contractors
Licensed Fire Suppression Contractors
Felicia Cooper, Administrator - Inspections
Stephen Gogreve, Manager
Boyd Petty, Manager
Pat Day, Supervisor of Health Care Inspections
Plan Review Staff

From: Jean Carter, Architect Supervisor
Henry Reed, Architect Supervisor
Don Zeringue, Architect Supervisor
Fidel Fremin, Architect Supervisor

Approved by: Mark Gates,
Deputy Assistant Secretary/Chief Architect

Date: April 4, 2001

Re: Internal Joint Sealants for Kitchen Exhaust Hoods

In accordance with NFPA 96:2-1.2, "All seams, joints, and penetrations of the hood enclosure that direct and capture grease-laden vapors and exhaust gases shall have a liquid-tight continuous external weld to the hood's lower outermost perimeter. Internal hood joints, seams, filter support frames, and appendages attached inside the hood need not be welded but shall be sealed or otherwise made grease-tight."

Upon consultation with the National Fire Protection Association, this office, as the Authority Having Jurisdiction, has been advised to render an interpretation for acceptable sealants at internal hood joints, seams, filter support frames, and appendages attached inside the hood.

This office determines that an interior joint sealant may be acceptable to this office provided the following characteristics can be demonstrated:

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1. Sealant shall be tested by a recognized testing agency, documenting the following requirements:

   A. Sealant to be heat-treated to withstand temperatures at or above the temperature rating of the highest rated fusible link within the hood and duct assembly.

   B. Sealant shall be FDA and USDA approved.

2. Application of the sealant shall not produce or, cause to be produced, resultant pockets or traps which may collect grease.

3. Application of the sealant shall be complete, providing continuous closure to all internal exposed joints, seams, filter support frames, and appendages attached inside the hood.

JCC/jcc/tm

cc: John Laudun, NFPA 96 Specialist
Sherri Montagnino, Imaging Files