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STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MEMORANDUM

To: Heads of Fire Department
From: Stephen D. Coan
State Fire Marshal
Date: December 1, 2014
RE: **Fire Protection Permit as of January 1, 2015**
Adoption of Revised Comprehensive Fire Safety Code

As you know, the revised Comprehensive Fire Safety Code will go into effect on January 1, 2015 and as a result, many questions are being raised in regards to the permitting of the installation of fire protection systems under the new code.

The revised fire code will have limited permitting requirements with respect to the installation of fire protection systems. These former permitting requirements were not carried forward since the Massachusetts State Building Code (MSBC) currently requires fire department review and approval under 780 CMR 107.1.2. The text of 780 CMR 107.1.2 reads as follows;

107.1.2 Fire Department Review. For permits that include work under Chapters 4 or 9, or 34, construction documents shall be filed simultaneously with the head of the local fire department and building official for review and approval. The fire department shall complete its review within 10-working days after receiving the documents. Upon the fire department's request, the building official may grant one or more extensions up to a total review period maximum of 30- days. If the fire department review is not received within the allowed time frame the building official may upon review deem the documents in compliance with Chapters 4 or 9, or 34. If the head of the local fire department disapproves such construction documents, he or she shall notify the building official (refer to M.G.L. c. 148, § 28A) in writing citing relevant sections of noncompliance with this code or the section of the referenced standards of Chapter 35.

The revised fire code will still require permitting for the impairment and/or shutdown of any fire protection or carbon monoxide equipment and for fire protection systems required under 527 CMR 1.00, which codifies M.G.L. c. 148, s. 27A.

The elimination of the permit was based on the assumption that the fire official has reviewed and approved the project through the MSBC. If a Certificate of Occupancy was issued and the building did not comply with the provisions outlined in the MSBC, the possibility exists that there could be 527 CMR 1.00 fire code violations as of the day after the Certificate of Occupancy was granted. Therefore, please continue efforts to ensure review and approval under the MSBC.

The fire department review and approval (under 780 CMR 107.1.2) is for any work involving 780 CMR Chapter: 4 (Special Detailed Requirements Based on Use and Occupancy), Chapter 9 (Fire Protection Systems) and/or Chapter 34 (Existing Structures) of the MSBC. There is no work in a new building that will not require this fire department review and approval. Even the construction of small buildings that do not require a fire alarm or sprinkler system still need fire department review and approval under 780 CMR.

If you have any questions contact either Jake Nunnemacher (a community on or south of MA pike) at (978) 567-3377; or Jen Hoyt (north of MA pike) at (978) 567-3376.