



PORTLAND MAINE

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Fire Department

Chief Frederick J. LaMontagne, Jr.

MEMORANDUM

7 October 2009

Re: 645 Congress Street

The current building is under construction renovation. The existing construction of the structure has been classified as type 3B construction by the licensed design professional in accordance with the International Building Code 2003. This is an existing condition. This type of construction allows the use of combustibles, including wiring, on the interior of the building. This building would not be permitted to be constructed today as type 3B construction because it is a 6 story building. The construction would be required to be non-combustible. City of Portland Code of Ordinances, Section 6-39. "Cables/Nonmetallic Conduit" requires the use of metal sheathed cable in non-combustible construction. Article 336-5 of the National Electric Code, 1999, prohibits the use of non-metallic sheathed cable in multifamily dwelling or other structures exceeding 3 stories.

In accordance the City of Portland Code of Ordinances Chapter 10, "Fire Prevention and Protection", Section 10-22. "Modifications", and based on the amount of existing combustibles on the interior of the building and the existing construction conditions, the Fire Chief finds that the following provisions will be permitted with regards to the fire alarm system at 645 Congress Street:

1. Because of the reuse of the existing building, existing fire alarm cable may be reused except as otherwise limited by this memorandum. All such cable shall be Fire Power Limited Plenum (FPLP).
2. In rooms where ceilings are sealed or the space above the ceiling is combustible, all such cable shall comply with the National Fire Alarm Code, Article 760 of the National Electrical Code 1999 and Chapter 6 of the City of Portland Code of Ordinances. This wiring is required to be metal sheathed cable.
3. Where wiring is added or replaced, it shall comply with the National Fire Alarm Code, Article 760 of the National Electrical Code 1999 and Chapter 6 of the City of Portland Code of Ordinances. This wiring is required to be metal sheathed cable.
4. It must be verified there are two notification circuits on each floor, providing that every other notification appliance is on a different circuit.
5. An inspection of all fire alarm cables shall be performed by the City of Portland Electrical Inspector prior to any close-in.

6. Prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy, a special inspections report, submitted by a State of Maine Licensed Electrical Engineer, shall be required for all fire alarm wiring in the building. This report shall state 1) the wiring is installed per this agreement, 2) the condition of the existing reused wiring is the equivalent of newly installed wiring, and 3) the alarm system is installed in compliance with the City of Portland National Electric Code 1999.
7. Prior to further work on the Fire Alarm system, a fire alarm permit is required and must be filed for the installation or alteration of the system per Section 6-41, Fire Alarms of the City of Portland Code of Ordinances.
8. This memorandum does not negate or waive any requirements of any other permit previously reviewed and issued by the City.