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JUN 18 2008

June 13, 2008
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City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101

Attention: Ms. Jeanie Bourke
Inspections Division

Re: University of New England Westbrook Campus
Portland, Maine
Laboratory Hood Exhaust System Appeal
Revision Two

145-A-003

Dear Ms. Bourke:

We request approval to construct the laboratory hood exhaust system in accordance with NFPA 45, as required by the State Fire Code, and with the provisions of the 2006 International Mechanical Code and the 2006 International Building Code. We understand that the City of Portland is currently enforcing the 2003 International Building Code and 2003 International Mechanical Code.

Our justification is that the 2003 code series, while correcting some long standing problems with the construction of laboratory hood exhaust, was once again corrected in the 2006 editions. These corrections permit laboratory exhausts systems to be constructed in the manner that the industry typically has successfully used for many years.

However, the 2006 IMC and 2006 IBC still have the effect of requiring smoke dampers, which are prohibited by NFPA 45. We propose that smoke dampers be omitted, as required by the State Fire Code, on the grounds that the installation is similar to the kitchen, dryer and bathroom exhaust exception identified in 2006 IBC 716.5.3 exception 2, which permits the omission of smoke dampers.

We appreciate your consideration of this matters and look forward to your response.

Yours truly:

Philip R. Sherman, P.E.

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