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Director of Planning and Urban Development
Penny St. Louis Littell

Inspection Services, Director
Jeanie Bourke

September 22, 2008

Philip R. Sherman, P.E.
444 Wilmot Center Road
Elkins, NH 03233-0216

RE: University of New England Westbrook Campus – Laboratory Hood Exhaust System Waiver
714 Stevens Ave., Portland, ME

CBL: 145 A003, Building Permit # 08-0088

Dear Mr. Sherman,

Thank you for your request for waiver received June 13, 2008. The request is to utilize NFPA 45, International Mechanical Code (IMC) 2006, and International Building Code (IBC) 2006 for the installation of the Lab Hood.

The following are the facts:

1. The City of Portland is currently working under the adopted IMC and IBC 2003. State Law does not allow the City to adopt the 2006 Code series.
2. The 2003 series had corrected many longstanding issues with the construction of laboratory hoods, and the 2006 edition made even further corrections that are in line with industry standards. The one exception is the requirement of smoke dampers, which are prohibited by NFPA 45.
3. The proposal is to view the laboratory hood system as similar to kitchen, dryer and bathroom exhaust installations, which under IBC 2006 Sec. 716.5.3, exception 2 allows smoke dampers to be omitted.
4. This office recognizes the code adoption deficiencies, and agrees in this instance, the justification of waiver to omit smoke dampers in the lab hood poses no threat to public safety; it actually increases the safety of the occupants.

The Waiver Request is approved by this office to utilize the IBC 2006 exception cited above, the IMC 2006 and NFPA 45 for installation of the laboratory hood system at the above mentioned project.

This is based on the adoption of the NFPA fire code, and the inability of the City to adopt the 2006 codes.

Yours truly,

Jeanie Bourke
Inspections Director