DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 20, 1976

TO: Borough Superintendents

FROM: Jeremiah T. Walsh, P.E., Commissioner

SUBJECT: Water Supply Connections to Certain Plumbing Fixtures

The provisions of Section P107.13 of Reference Standard RS-16 require certain plumbing equipment to receive water supply only through air gaps.

Direct water connections to the potable water supply system are prohibited for the following equipment:

1. Bidets with submerged water connection that cannot drain out after shut off.

2. Aspirators, injectors, ejectors or water siphons and similar apparatus.

3. Mortuary, dissection, operating and embalming tables or similar equipment.

4. Sterilizers.

5. Flushing rim floor drains.

It has been found that the embalming facilities of a great many funeral establishments in New York City are not in compliance with the above requirements creating a situation wherein the potable water supply is not protected adequately from contamination.

A water supply system separated from the public water supply is "prohibited in most existing funeral establishments due to space limitations" according to the Metropolitan Funeral Directors Association.

Proposed legislation is being submitted to the City Council amending subdivision P107.13 of Reference Standard RS-16 to authorize reduced pressure principle back pressure backflow preventers between the water supply and the equipment for the five types of equipment listed in subdivision

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P107.13 as an alternate to air gaps.

Meanwhile, the proposed alternate may be accepted by this department. Reduced pressure priniciple back pressure preventers shall be manufactured in accordance with ASSE (American Society of Sanitary Engineering) No. 1013 of 1974. Such backflow preventers may be approved while an application is pending before the MEA division.

Plumbing repair slips may be used to file for the installation of backflow preventers.

Jeremiah T. Walsh, P.E.
Commissioner

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