INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM - 2000-6

To: Licensed Architects
Licensed Engineers
Licensed Sprinkler Contractors
Licensed Fire Alarm Contractors
Licensed Fire Suppression Contractors
Mark Gates, Administrator for Inspections/Arson
Pat Slaughter, Regional Manager of Fire & Safety/Arson
Stephen Gogreve, Regional Manager of Fire & Safety/Arson
Pat Day, Supervisor of Health Care Inspections
Plan Review Staff

From: Jean Carter, Architect Supervisor
Henry Reed, Architect Supervisor
Don Zeringue, Architect Supervisor
Cynthia Obier, ADAAG Specialist

Approved by: Jerry W. Jones,
Deputy Assistant Secretary/Chief Architect

Date: January 20, 2000

Re: Strobe Placement in “Common Use” Areas

Strobes are required in the following areas: “Restrooms and any other general usage areas (e.g. meeting rooms), hallways, lobbies, and any other area for common use.” [ADAAG 4.28]

“Common use”, as stated above, means any area commonly used by employees or the general public such as:

a.) File rooms
b.) Copy rooms
c.) Lounges/kitchenettes/cafeterias
d.) Conference rooms
e.) Exterior balconies/patios if you are required to re-enter the building to exit
f.) Aisles between movable office partitions [coverage of the entire office space is always acceptable. If the entire space is not covered by strobe then the strobe coverage must be modified to cover newly created aisles (and therefore reviewed by this office) when the movable partitions are relocated].

Examples of areas that do not require strobe coverage by ADAAG are:

a.) Mechanical rooms
b.) Storage rooms
c.) Private restrooms connected to an office
d.) Office desk/pool areas confined within movable partitions or walls that do not include public waiting areas or a through circulation route. Any waiting areas or through circulation routes within this type area would require strobe coverage.
e.) Private offices

Cc: Marc Reech, Executive Staff Officer