

## DESIGN ALERT ON MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT IN INTERSTITIAL SPACE

### ISSUE:

Is mechanical equipment with small motors located in the interstitial space hazardous?

### BACKGROUND:

Some Resident Engineers believe, it is hazardous to locate electrical motors in the interstitial space as this space is not sprinklered. Consequently, they have issued some change orders to relocate the fans to an adjacent mechanical room.

### DISCUSSION:

This issue was discussed with VA Fire Protection Engineer Ken Faulstich (138) during the initial review of New Hospital at Brevard County, FL. The A/E for this hospital considered use of 4-pipe fan coil units for the perimeter zone as one of the schemes for life cycle cost analysis purposes of three different systems. The fan coil units would be located in the interstitial space. The issue was raised with, and reviewed by, the Fire Protection Task Group, who agreed with the initial findings to permit the use of interstitial space to install fan coil units and fan-powered air terminal units with small (fractional horse-power) motors.

### RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSION:

Installation of small fractional HP motors is permitted in the interstitial space.

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Contact Facilities Quality Service at [til@va.gov](mailto:til@va.gov).

# DESIGN ALERT